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RESULTS
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Life & Times section

UN official condemns 'criminal negligence' after sniper kills two orphan girls

Child shootings threaten exodus from Sarajevo

BY ADAM LEBOR

ATTEMPTS to move children out of war-torn Sarajevo are likely to be abandoned after the killing of two infant girls on an unprotected bus-load of orphans in the city's notorious Sniper Alley.

The director of the orphanage they were fleeing said that she would not let any more children go on overland journeys, and UN officials have already ruled out a mass airlift.

Vedrana Glavaj, 3, and Roki Sulejmanovic, 14 months, died on Saturday night after a sniper hit the bus as it made its way along a long exposed road out of the city. One had been orphaned during the siege of Sarajevo and the other had been abandoned by her mother.

They and 48 other children who survived the attack on the bus had been waiting six days to be evacuated to nearby Fojnica and from there to Germany and last night UN officials criticised aid workers for defying warnings to undertake the journey.

Heavy fighting erupted on Saturday as Bosnian forces attempted a counter-offensive to break the Serb siege, and

UN officials said last night that they had told those planning the evacuation to wait a few days until the fighting had died down.

Vera Zoric, the director of the orphanage they were fleeing, said she had been trying to get the children out but could not reach an agreement with UN peacekeepers on how it could be done. It is possible to drive out of Sarajevo by passing through the Croatian checkpoint at Stup, in the western part of the city where relations between Serbs and Croats are peaceful. But such a drive should be attempted only during the day and as early as possible.

Aid workers were yesterday severely criticised for attempting the journey. Mik Magnusson, the UN protection force spokesman in Sarajevo, described the enterprise as almost criminally negligent and called for an investigation into the incident. "To me it borders on being criminally negligent to take children or anyone else for that matter into a known war zone at a time when the fighting starts every day," he told the BBC.

Dusko Tomic, founder of the Children's Embassy, which tries to move children out of Sarajevo, said: "It's an absolute catastrophe, no other kids were wounded but they were all screaming." Mr Tomic said his group had received no escort from the UN protection force.

Ms Zoric said Serbs manning checkpoints announced that Serb children would be taken off the bus, but the others would be allowed to travel on to Fojnica.

The children who survived the attack, together with the adults escorting them, spent the night at a local cafe. "The kids were calm but the adults were distraught," the owner, Ivan Curcic, said. "I can understand why this happened but I cannot accept it. When children are killed for no reason something must change."

About 100 orphans remain at Sarajevo's Ljubica Ivezic

orphanage, awaiting evacuation. So far UN officials have ruled out a mass transport out by air, although groups have gone overland to the Croatian port of Split and then to western Europe.

A mass airlift would be difficult to negotiate between the various factions, any one of which could choose to shoot at the departing planes, close the airport again, and then blame its enemy. UN officials also say that the amount of medical equipment needed to transport sick children takes up valuable space that could be used for food relief. But Bosnian doctors and relief workers have been distraught at the sight of a stream of empty hospital transport planes taking off from Sarajevo airport each day that could be flying children out to safety.

In the past few months, more than 700 children have been killed and 5,000 wounded in Sarajevo alone. About 80,000 children and teenagers, with and without their parents, remain trapped. The attack on the busload of orphans shows that in this brutal internecine conflict there is no safe escape route.

Even the most innocent victims, bewildered children who have already lost their homes and families, are now considered military targets as they try to reach a safe haven.

Nobody really knows how many children are orphaned, dead or wounded in areas outside the capital where fighting still rages. Serbian forces daily rain down a barrage of death and destruction in the areas around Brcko, Visegrad and the besieged town of Gorazde, where conditions are reported to be horrific. Corpses are said to litter the streets while the starving population scavenges for anything edible.

Doctors in Sarajevo say that their colleagues in Gorazde are running out of medicine and the wounded have their limbs amputated without anaesthetics in the



A frightened orphan behind the bullet-hole windscreen of the bus that was attacked by snipers in Sarajevo

open air. Heavy shelling continues on Gorazde and the town is unlikely to hold out for much longer. There there is no way out for the trapped children. They cannot even try to risk their lives making the perilous run to Sarajevo airport. Gorazde is cut off even to the UN, whose relief convoy last turned back after an attempt to bring aid to the starving inhabitants.

In Sarajevo, in Belgrade, in Zagreb, all over this blighted region, the hideous physical

and psychological effects of war on its children are omnipresent. At Sarajevo's Kosovo hospital, wounded and maimed children, some with amputated limbs, hobble along its corridors, or lie on their backs, silently staring at the ceiling. A 14-year-old girl, now paralysed, has not said a word since she arrived there on May 2.

On the streets of the town centre, small boys run in and out of doorways, by now accustomed to the crump of

artillery and crack of gunfire, acting out with wooden guns their own childish version of the Bosnian war. Somehow they still find the energy to play, calling out to passers-by, laughing and shouting.

The casualties are on all sides. In Belgrade, at the Pionirski Grad refugee camp, once a holiday home for young communists, Serbian refugee children play "Ustashi and Chetniks", Yugoslavia's macabre version

of Cowboys and Indians. One side pretends to be war-time Croatian fascists, and the other Serb irregulars. A young Serbian mother, forced out of her home in Zagreb, she says, explains how her nine-year-old son is obsessed with the war and can talk of nothing else, as he sits on his bed, idly leafing

Continued on page 14, col 2

Intervention debate, page 7
Leading article, page 11

Olympic gold for British brothers

FROM JOHN GOODBODY
IN BARCELONA

AN EPIC victory in the rowing finals of the coxed pairs yesterday capped a wonderful weekend for Britain at the Olympic Games which saw Linford Christie's triumph in the 100 metres and a win in the coxless pairs.

Greg and Jonathan Searle and their cox Garry Herbert defeated the Italians Carmine and Giuseppe Abbagnale, winners of the 1984 and 1988 Olympic titles.

At the halfway stage of the 2,000 metres race at Banyoles they were leading the young British pair by nearly two lengths. Usually this start is sufficient to end the hopes of most of their rivals. However, the British pair gradually overhauled the Romanians in second place and then attacked the Italians. The Britons, who learned their rowing at Hampton school, cut the Italians' lead as the finish line approached and finally caught the pair with five strokes to go.

Greg Searle, aged 20, who two years ago became the first British rower to compete in both world junior and senior championships in the same year, said: "Everything was going black. I did not know what was going on. It was lucky that we were brothers because we switched on to some auto-pilot."

Herbert, who leapt up and down in the boat at the finish in delight at the triumph, said: "I wanted them to be prepared to die for this and they nearly did."

The pair, who represent Molesey Boat Club, had been expected to challenge for a medal but their performance against two of the best oarsmen in the world ranks highly in the annals of British sport. Jonathan Searle, aged 23, is more experienced having been president of the Oxford University boat club in 1990 and having competed in the last three world championships in the eight.

Their success followed that of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in the coxed pairs on Saturday and means that Britain has won two gold medals in the regatta for the first time since the war.

Weightlifters' fight, page 2
Leading article and letters, page 11
Olympic reports, pages 19, 20, 21, 26

TODAY IN THE TIMES

IMPOLITE SOCIETY



Rudeness is on the increase, says Nicholas Ridley. He wants us to be nicer to each other
Life & Times
Page 1

COURTESY OF THE TIMES



Well-mannered luxury hotels at 30% off: a Times special offer
Life & Times
Page 6

Public sector salaries to be pegged as inflation falls

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major has told ministers that he will veto public-sector pay rises higher than inflation, a policy which could mean increases next year of no more than 2 per cent.

The policy of limiting pay in line with predicted falls in the retail price index is a key part of his long-term strategy for convincing European money markets that sterling should replace the mark as the focal currency in the Community.

With inflation predicted by the Treasury to fall to 3.25 per cent by April — and a 2 per cent target later next year — the prime minister has made clear to colleagues that pay rises must reflect his anti-inflationary strategy. This in turn should raise the status of sterling in the Community if

the government continues to resist calls for short-term palliatives or high pay rises which risk a return to high inflation.

The new performance-related pay regime may mean higher rises for some of the 5.1 million public-service employees, but could be offset by lower inflation rises, or a freeze, for others. The impact of this strategy was felt in last month's pay rises for 2,000 top civil servants, judges and generals, which were cut to 4 per cent.

It is also coming through in the tough negotiations over lecturers' pay. John Patten, the education secretary, has turned down the settlement negotiated by the vice-chancellors for the lecturers of 7.5 per cent, with a rise of 3.5 per cent now being talked of.

Economic worries were reflected in a Mori opinion poll yesterday, which put Labour in the lead for the first time since the general election. Labour stood at 43 per cent, the Conservatives 39, and Liberal Democrats 15, although Mr Major's personal standing remains high. In addition, consumer confidence sank with only 21 per cent expecting the economy to improve over the next year. Ministers are coming under fresh pressure to introduce emergency measures to prop up the housing market. Two leading economic forecasters are urging a boost to spending on housing amid

Continued on page 14, col 1
Peter Riddell, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Spending call, page 15

Violent prelude to mass action in South Africa

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

TWELVE people died in weekend violence in South Africa as the country looked forward nervously to a week of mass protests, beginning with a general strike today and tomorrow.

Even radical movements which might otherwise have supported the week of strikes, marches and boycotts have complained of intimidation by African National Congress members trying to make the general strike a success. The Pan Africanist Congress said it had received numerous reports of intimidation. There had, it said, been reports that school teachers who were prepared to teach, have been forced to flee their homes over this weekend; that threats had been made to burn homes and private cars; people who disagreed with the strike had been assaulted

and taxi drivers planning to work had been threatened.

Both the government and the ANC now accept that the mass action has to take place as a public test of strength. Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, made only brief reference to the campaign during a speech in the eastern Transvaal yesterday, but he told journalists afterwards that it was not the ANC's aim to cause insurrection.

"All we want to do is to pressure the government into accepting an interim government and democratic elections. If the government shows signs of good faith, the ANC will return to Codesa," he said, referring to the convention for a Democratic South Africa, which the ANC is boycotting.

Violence fears, page 9

Satellite misses its target ... by 51 miles

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A £200 million European satellite with a unique British-built experiment on board was yesterday stranded in a wrong orbit 51 miles short of its intended 320-mile high slot.

There are fears that the craft, the European Retrievable Carrier or Eureka, may be unable to fulfil its six-to-nine-month mission, frustrating scientists who have waited more than five years for its launch and embarrassing the European Space Agency (ESA) which is struggling to justify budgets to national ministers.

Trouble struck early yesterday, five hours after Eureka's deployment from the United States space shuttle Atlantis. Six minutes after the satellite's engines were fired to take it into orbit, navigational errors were detected by mission controllers who

shut down the engines. It has left Eureka circling the Earth at a height of 269 miles, which may be too low for its main battery of experiments to work. But Phil Engelauf, flight director at NASA, says the altitude should not affect the satellite's operations and has no plans to use Atlantis to recapture the craft.

Daria Robinson, an ESA spokeswoman, disagreed, saying: "It is clearly not the best orbit for the experiments." She added that her agency would do everything it could to move it. "We don't think there's any damage to the spacecraft and there's certainly no damage to the payload."

Eureka, designed as the world's first fully reusable satellite, was planned to carry out the longest ever microgravity experiments free from the Earth's magnetic field. These included growing near perfect semi-

conductor crystals for use in advanced electronics.

Another experiment has been designed by engineers at Sira in Chislehurst, Kent, to expose DNA and humble life forms, such as fungi and brine shrimp eggs, to the effects of inner space to see if organisms could have survived and travelled across space to colonise the planet.

Other experiments are designed to study the Sun and test advanced gallium arsenide solar cells, whose use for power in space is expected to increase dramatically. Gallium arsenide cells are more efficient than silicon at converting sunlight into electricity and more robust in the harsh conditions of space.

The Eureka mission has been dogged by technical setbacks since Atlantis blasted off on Friday. Over the weekend ESA engineers battled frantically to resolve a communications glitch which left the satellite stuck on the end of the shuttle's robot arm.

Tests by ESA mission controllers in Darmstadt had found the data relay systems, which allow officials to communicate between the craft and ground stations at Korou, French Guiana, and the Canary Islands, were not working properly.

Much to the relief of ESA officials, mission controllers managed to release Eureka early yesterday. But the delay has put back the deployment of an Italian-American tethered satellite which will try to generate electricity down a 12.5 mile copper cord from the Earth's ionosphere and magnetic field. The 30-hour experiment is now scheduled for tomorrow and Wednesday.

At least two other missions are planned for Eureka, which is scheduled to be retrieved in the spring by a shuttle.

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INDEX	
Births, marriages, deaths	12, 13
Crossword	14
Letters	11
Obituaries	13
Parliament	8
Sport	19-26
Weather	14
LIFE & TIMES	
Arts	2, 3
Modern Times	4
Education	7
Concise Crossword	13
TV & radio	14

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Walk of sorrow: some of the 300 Wimbledon residents who yesterday paid tribute to a young woman they did not know, but who proved with her life what a deadly place their beloved common can be (Alan Hamilton writes). Rachel Nickell, aged 23, was murdered on July 15 as she strolled the south London common with her dog and two-year-old son Alexander. Local people

infused with horror, distress and sympathy that such an evil deed should be done where they themselves ride their horses and walk their dogs, paid their simple respects to a life taken that could easily have been their own.

Starting from the war memorial in Wimbledon village, they walked and rode into the 1,100-acre heathland, carefully avoiding the murder site, to a spot nearby under the common's familiar windmill. There they placed bunches of orange and white lilies or bright red carnations on the ground beneath the tree's shade. One bunch was from Angela Rumbold, the local MP, and all her constituents: most were anonymous, their message the stronger for being unspoken. One said: "Dear Rachel, although we never knew you, you will always have a

special place in our hearts." Gordon Hammond, a friend of Miss Nickell's boyfriend Andre Hanscombe, read a message from him, in which Mr Hanscombe said: "This kind of violence is becoming more and more commonplace here. Man's savagery and brutality is inflicting this kind of pain and suffering in the world every single moment of the day and night. If you shed a tear

for Rachel, she would also have you shed one for every victim of violence." The Rev Andrew Studdert-Kennedy, curate of St Mary's, Wimbledon, led a short service of prayer and a minute's silence. No members of Miss Nickell's family were present: they have their own private funeral to endure today. But they gave the event their blessing.

Jackson fans told concert may be on

The pop superstar Michael Jackson appears to be recovering from his bout of flu and could be performing by next Wednesday, doctors said yesterday. The news delighted loyal fans waiting outside Dorchester hotel in central London, where the 33-year-old singer is staying during his current British Tour. Scores of young people had besieged the hotel all day for news of their idol. Jackson, a multi-millionaire, had to withdraw at the last minute from a Wembley Stadium concert on Saturday night, with 72,000 supporters already filling the venue. In a message from his hotel sick-bed — where his entourage is said to have taken the entire seventh floor — Jackson said: "It is the worst thing in the world for me to let my fans down. Your understanding and support is the greatest medicine any doctor could administer. I love you all."

Those disappointed on Saturday night have been advised to keep their tickets either for a rescheduling of the concert or for a refund. After Cardiff, other Jackson concerts planned in Britain include Leeds on August 16, Glasgow on August 18 and Wembley again on August 20 and 21. In a bulletin issued after a morning examination, Jackson's doctors had said: "He looks much better today and will continue his rest ... with his current rate of improvement we anticipate he will perform on Wednesday."

Neighbour charged

A neighbour of Christopher Stanley, aged nine, who was found strangled in a wartime pill box, was yesterday charged with his murder. Kelvin John McMahon, 24, unemployed, of Hounslow, west London, will appear before magistrates in Feltham today. Scotland Yard said, Christopher's naked body was found on the edge of Hounslow Heath golf course, near his home in St Aubyn's Avenue. He had been strangled with a cord. Det Supt Chris Burke, leading the enquiry, said police still needed to find which route Christopher took from home to the heath and the whereabouts of his clothes. Anyone who saw the boy after 7.30pm on Wednesday should ring 081-577 1212.

K-reg sales sluggish

In the wake of a year of poor sales there was little optimism in the motor industry after a weekend start to the new sales year studied with K-registration bargains for buyers. Ian MacAllister, chairman of Ford UK, said: "There is no feel-good factor at the moment. Consumers are holding back through fear of job losses and of the unknown. Only an interest rate cut will get things moving again." A Rover spokesman said: "It is a difficult market and it doesn't look as though things will improve much. There is still a lack of consumer confidence despite very good finance deals." Among the few bright spots for the trade were parts of Scotland and the North-East, where business was brisk among private buyers and several garages reported moving more new cars than last year.

Be cautious, firms told

Employers must tread warily in moves to stop workplace smoking, Liz Batten, director of Smoke Stop and a senior psychology research fellow at Southampton University, says today. Workplace stop-smoking groups or counselling was likely to cause anger and rebellion among smokers who would feel victimised. "The components of a well-implemented smoking policy at work are consultation, sensitivity to the needs of smokers and plenty of warning." From January 1 a European directive will require all new workplaces to have separate rest rooms for smokers or a total ban. Existing workplaces will have three years to comply. Ms Batten says in the magazine *Personnel Management*, that employers could no longer plead ignorance of the risks as a defence against civil action by employees claiming ill-health through passive smoking.

Actress forgot risks

Antonia de Santha the actress said yesterday that she did not realise the risks involved in her relationship with David Mellor, National Heritage Secretary. In her first television interview since the alleged affair was disclosed, she said: "Of course initially one is in a sense responsible for one's own actions but when you fall for somebody, when you fall in love with somebody, you tend to forget about the practical side of things. You do, because you can't become sensible and practical about things so you don't really think about it greatly." She said his support would have helped during the past weeks, but now she felt nothing. Miss de Santha, 31, — appearing on ITV's *The Richard and Judy Show* — admitted she had fallen in love with Mr Mellor, 43, who is married with two young sons and a close friend of the Prime Minister.

Beggars written off



Catherine Cookson, the author who has sold more than 100 million books world-wide, is to discourage begging letters after her husband Tom, who deals with her mail, was treated in hospital with exhaustion. Cookson, left, says that the emotional strain of dealing with the letters has been too much for him. The multi-millionaire is to continue giving to charities and churches. She said: "Britain has become a nation of beggars."

A creeping invasion

Creepy-crawlies from foreign climes could be Britain's latest immigration problem, an MP said yesterday. Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, and a former bee-keeper, has written to John Gummer, the agriculture minister, about widespread reports that American crazy ants, brown-banded cockroaches, yellow-tailed scorpions and similarly strange insects are settling in Britain in growing numbers. Experts say that the wave of unwelcome refugees is helped by warmer weather in Britain in recent years. Many of them arrive unnoticed in consignments of fruit, clothing and cars. A spokesman for the ministry has said that people who discover alien and alarming insects should notify their local authorities who would mount death-dealing operations if this proved necessary.

Jobs plea for disabled

Job hunters with disabilities are still being discriminated against and should be given legal rights to employment, the Spastics Society says in a report. It finds that employers are six times less likely to give an interview to qualified applicants if they are disabled. The society calls for a much tougher quota system with fines for employers who fail to comply. Small to medium-size firms are the worst offenders. The reasons given for turning down volunteer disabled person would be disruptive to other staff to an assumption that disability would mean inefficiency.

New presenter

John Ware, the award-winning BBC Television journalist, will succeed David Jessel as presenter of *Rough Justice*, the current affairs series. Mr Ware, who joined *Panorama* in 1986 after nine years on *World In Action*, has won the Royal Television Society's current affairs award twice. He has made several acclaimed programmes on Northern Ireland for *Panorama* including *Dirty War* about the case of Brian Nelson, a British army intelligence agent who last January was jailed for 10 years for conspiracy for murder.

Banned weightlifter asks for legal aid

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

ANDREW Saxton, one of the British weightlifters sent home from the Olympics in disgrace, today begins the fight to clear his name with an application for legal aid. Without financial support, Mr Saxton's appeal against the life ban imposed on him for taking an allegedly banned drug may be jeopardised. Robert Hawes, Mr Saxton's solicitor, said yesterday: "Andrew is not a Ben Johnson with lots of money behind him. He lives on a council estate with his family and has been working part-time as a machinist. We are not sure how far he can go without financial backing."

The other banned weight-

lifter is also consulting a solicitor. Speaking from his home in Wales, Andrew Davies, 24, said: "I am not a cheat. My Olympics is over and now I intend to clear my name, but I cannot say anything more until I have spoken to my solicitor."

Mr Saxton should have competed in the 100 kg competition in Barcelona yesterday. Instead, his solicitor consulted medical experts on how best to challenge the ban for taking the drug clenbuterol. Although Mr Saxton took the drug out of competition to relieve his asthma, the Sports Council said that clenbuterol was banned because it acts as an anabolic agent.

A sports doctor yesterday described the council's argument as nonsense. Richard Nicholson, a former doctor to the British shooting team, said: "I spent all Saturday in the best medical library in Europe, at the Royal Society of Medicine, and found no evidence that clenbuterol is anabolic in man. It is anabolic in rats and various animals. That does not mean it enhances performance."

"In animals it actually decreases muscle glycogen, which stores energy. In humans, clenbuterol probably does not enhance an athlete's performance and it might even hinder it."

Dr Nicholson said the logic of banning what all drugs used to treat mild attacks of asthma would be banned.

"The International Olympic Commission is saying: 'We

don't want any asthmatics in our sport."

The uncertainty at the weekend, when it looked as if the weightlifters might be reinstated, has devastated Mr Saxton, according to his solicitor. Mr Hawes said: "The insensitive way that the whole episode was handled has left him shattered."

The British Olympic Association has set up an internal enquiry to examine the drugs scandal. The Sports Council plans to increase out-of-competition testing for selected sports. It is concerned that there should be fair regulations by all the national governing bodies, including the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association.

David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, said in Barcelona yesterday that he would listen to any proposals to ensure that tests were carried out more quickly.

The coach of Jason Livingston, the third British athlete banned last week, said in Barcelona yesterday that if the sprinter had taken anabolic steroids his supplier must be "hiding out there". Tony Lester, who has been coaching Livingston since January and who works for a company that produces hospital equipment such as paper towels, denied that he was a pharmaceutical salesman. "I sell disposables. I do not handle any form of tablets," he said.

British success, page 1
Leading article and
Letters, page 11
Olympics, pages 19-21, 26

Benefit agents check travellers

An anti-fraud squad is hard on the heels of itinerant claimants, report Sheila Gunn and Helen Johnstone

NEW Age travellers and Britons working at the Barcelona Olympics and other sporting events will have their benefit claims checked for fraud under a tough new regime set up by the departments of employment and social security.

Officers from the two departments are setting up an intelligence network to keep track of claimants who either move about the country or go abroad. The employment service will announce on Wednesday a sharp rise in the number of people found to be working while claiming unemployment benefit.

One of the most successful areas for officers has been tracking down claimants while they worked at sporting events, including golf tournaments such as the Muirfield, the venue for the recent Open championship. As part of the tougher anti-fraud measures demanded by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, the officers are also operating in Barcelona to check on Britons taken on as casual staff during the Olympics.

Nicholas Scott, the social security minister, has tried to appease Tory anger over the New Age travellers by promising to check that those receiving benefit payments fulfil the obligation of being available for work.

A claims history which will be kept on each traveller will be available to any office

where a claim is made. The government's task force will come up against a wide variety of well-ried, practised — and, to date, rewarding — techniques. Many claimants know by heart the many complex rules and are well versed in how to get around them.

One rule being exploited to the full states that unemployed people are entitled to seek work in their own field first, even if it is known that work is unlikely to become available. This gives unlimited scope to the more imaginative claimants to come up with a variety of occupations which are disappearing or not readily available.

Meanwhile, police forces throughout the west of England were yesterday breathing a sigh of relief that the 4,000 travellers who had converged on Wales seemed to have disappeared.

Police in East Sussex said last night that a party on private land in the Lewes area over the weekend had attracted up to 3,000 people at its peak and included a small number of New Age travellers.

Island is ready for shake-up

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest re-organisation of local government for nearly two decades will begin today on the Isle of Wight where one in every 290 adults is a councillor.

The island is regarded as the most over-governed area in Britain and its 147 square miles are administered by 340 councillors on 29 councils. It has a county council, two district councils, six town councils and 20 parish councils influencing the lives of 98,000 adult electors.

The island will be the first part of England to be examined by the new Local Government Commission, which is chaired by Sir John Banham, the former director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Sir John and his team of 12 have the job of reviewing municipal structures outside London and the metropolitan areas during the next five years with a brief to remove one of the two principal tiers of county and district councils. Since 1986 islanders have campaigned for the abolition of one of the three tiers of municipal power on the island. Their efforts were repeatedly defeated because legislation would be needed to allow the change.

The passage of the Local Government Act, giving Michael Howard, the environment secretary, powers to redraw the municipal map has provided the opportunity the islanders have sought in vain for so long.

Professions worried over housing market

BY RACHIEL KELLY PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

CALLS this weekend for the government to intervene in the housing market reflect the growing concern within the professions about the depression in the industry.

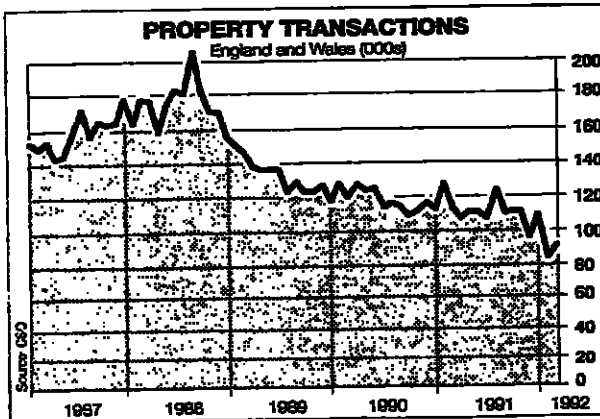
The demands by the leaders of two of Britain's biggest building societies for emergency government measures indicate the growing certainty that the government must intervene to stimulate the market artificially. How that intervention can be achieved is an issue which sharply divides estate agents, lenders, housing professionals, and City analysts. Their recommendations divide between those intended to help owner-occupiers and those aimed at raising the number of homes for rent. The proportion of UK households privately renting their homes is about 7 per cent. That compares with more 90 per cent before the first world war.

The growing numbers of people in trouble with their mortgages bear witness to the need for a viable rented sector. About 305,000 bor-

rowers are at least six months in arrears and 35,750 home owners have been repossessed in first six months of this year. Such levels are expected to bring the return of confidence to the market seen as vital to a recovery. Confidence in turn would lead to an increase in property sales, which is necessary for a recovery in house prices.

The most effective way to help the housing market would be to cut interest rates. Rates have come down from their 15 per cent peak but are still more than 10 per cent. With flat property prices that means real interest levels are in double figures when lenders believe they need to be three or four per cent. A change in interest rates is restricted by membership of the European exchange rate mechanism.

A second government weapon would be extending the stamp duty holiday, a measure favoured by the National Association of Estate Agents which last month launched a "stamp out



stamp duty" campaign. Others including Mark Boleat, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, believe that the effect of the Halifax Building Society, said this weekend that the tax should be reformed. Others believe that the lower limit for stamp duty should be increased from £30,000 to £60,000 to reflect the increase in the price of the average house, which is

£68,000 in London according to the Nationwide Building Society. This would help first-time buyers as well as those in regions with higher property prices. A third reform would be to institute a new form of "relief payments" to help mortgage payers on reduced income, similar to the housing benefits scheme which applies to low income tenants. The new benefits scheme would be difficult to administer, needing constant monitoring of

سكنى من الاراضى

Tax-free legacy of laughter

David Robinson on
a festival of film
comedy in Vevey, the
Swiss town where
Charlie Chaplin
made his home

Vevey, a little town beside Lake Lemman, has had a special place in British hearts ever since Queen Victoria negotiated a private deal with the Canton of Vaud to exempt any of her subjects resident there from paying income tax. Intending tax exiles should note that the exemption has now been repealed, though a considerable English colony survives to swell the sedate evening promenade along the lakeside walks.

Tax advantages apart, Vevey has attracted many distinguished long or short-term visitors — Rousseau, Byron, Hugo, Henry James, Ernest Hemingway, Noel Coward, Nabokov, Graham Greene, Kurosawa, and Kruger of South Africa. Dostoevsky wrote *The Gambler* in Vevey, Stravinsky composed part of *The Rite of Spring* and Le Corbusier built a house for his parents.

These are not the names the tourists remember. Vevey's most famous resident is still Charlie Chaplin, who settled in the Manoir de Ban in 1953 and died there 25 years later. His widow died last September, and their big grave in the churchyard, ablaze with crimson lobelia, is an essential pilgrimage for every visitor.

The Chaplin presence is everywhere. A duplicate of the statue in Leicester Square looks over the lake. A rival monument stands in the Parc Chaplin. Every shopkeeper boasts anecdotes of Chaplin visits. The whole town remembers the family's annual visits to the Knie Circus in the marketplace.

What more obvious location for a festival of film comedy? The Vevey Festival was founded 12 years ago under the patronage of Oona Chaplin. The president is her son Eugene. There is generally a scatter of Chaplin children and grandchildren around the festival.

While effectively discrediting the national stereotype of Swiss efficiency, the festival has a suitably cheerful informality and an admirable emphasis on the young audience. This year two juries of schoolchildren served alongside the international jury — which included the singer Line Renaud and Robert Downey Jr, who plays Chaplin in Richard Attenborough's forthcoming cinema biography, *Charlie*.

The young jury, as it happened, provided one of the festival's outstanding movie moments. As well as judging (which they do with admirable responsibility and perception) they were encouraged to make videos, each based on a French song.

The results were all creditable; but one stood out from the rest as



Vevey: reminders of Chaplin are everywhere, but other famous residents have included Rousseau, Byron, Henry James and Hemingway

thrilling proof that, like music or drawing, understanding of the moving image can be an instinctual gift. Simply recording reactions of passers-by to the Chaplin statue by the lake, this little film, *Les Enfants de Chaplin*, is shot and edited by 14-year-old Rafael Poncioni with a wit and rhythm that would do credit to any professional. It is rare to be able to predict with such confidence a distinctive future film-maker.

By and large the Vevey programme confirms that good film comedy is today hard to find. The decline is a fact of history. The stars of the golden era, from Chaplin, Keaton and Laurel and Hardy to the Marx Brothers, W.C. Fields and Mae West, perfected their craft in vaudeville, which nurtured technical precision and character comedy. The source of most contemporary film comedy is television sitcom, where a production-line output depends on off-the-peg dialogue, mechanical gags and stock characters. The influence was all too apparent in many Vevey entries — even *La Postière*, by the one-time white hope of French-Canadian cinema, Gilles Carle.

The main prize-winner, Carlo Verdone's *Maledetto il Giorno che l'ho incontrato* (Curse the Day I Met You), comes from a more robust strain of comedy that has surfaced over the past decade or so in Italy, where a school of star comedians,

mostly from variety and television, have turned to directing their own starring vehicles. The best known outside Italy are Roberto Benigni and Maurizio Nichetti.

Verdone, with his dog-like, melancholy look, is something of a Mediterranean Woody Allen in his concern with *fin-de-siècle* anxieties. Here he plays a rock critic entangled with an equally neurotic fellow psychiatrist. Their gag-filled adventures ultimately land them in Cornwall and locations that our own film-makers have never exploited.

By far the most original of the new films on show, however, was *Man Bites Dog*, which will also be seen at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Made on a shoestring budget by a 20-year-old Belgian, Koenig Belvaux, it purports to be documentary, with a camera crew doggedly following the career of a serial killer — an opinionated maniac who gleefully confides the tricks of the trade to the camera.

Implicitly this blackest of black comedies is an exposé of media amorality. There is considerable satisfaction in seeing the daffy film crew, having turned into the killer's accomplices, ultimately become his victims.

The new films were inevitably outclassed by the retrospectives. The local audience turned out in force for

a commemoration of 20 years of Monty Python. The festival's presiding genius was celebrated with a series of performances of *City Lights* with Chaplin's own music performed live by Carl Davis and the Nouvel Orchestre de Montreux.

Vevey also offered a retrospective of film versions of the world's first theatrical box-office smash in the modern sense — John Gay's 1728 musical comedy *The Beggar's Opera*. In 1929 Bertolt Brecht reinterpreted the piece, with musical numbers by Kurt Weill. He downed the 1931 film adaptation by George Wilhelm Pabst, though today it is a wonderful, gritty evocation of the style and music of the Weimar era.

Pabst made a simultaneous French version, *L'Opéra de Quat Sous*, using the same sets but a different cast. The French stars managed comically to convert Brecht's mordant political satire into romantic operetta. A remake of 1962 by Wolfgang Staudte was faithful to Brecht, though the bizarre all-star cast — Curt Jürgens, Hildegard Knef, Lino Ventura and Sammy Davis Jr — unbalanced the film without achieving the hoped-for international market.

In fact *The Beggar's Opera* rarely seems to have been a lucky subject. In 1953, Peter Brook made his film debut with an adaptation of the Gay original. Again, a dazzling cast, with

a singing Laurence Olivier as Macheath, failed to save a rather scrappy film. A 1989 version by Menahem Golan, starring Julia Milgrom Johnson, was by all accounts so dreadful that it has remained practically unseen. Vevey wisely shunned it.

A new *Beggar's Opera*, Jiri Menzel's *Opera Zabrucka*, has at least historical interest, as a faithful adaptation of Václav Havel's 1972 reworking for the stage. While staying fairly faithful to Gay's original (which itself had subversive political undertones), Havel used the machinations of Macheath the killer-thief, Peachum the fence and the corrupt police chief as a satire on an irredeemably corrupt society. After a single performance in 1975 the play was banned and its actors and authors subjected to persecution which led to Havel's long imprisonment.

The film opens seductively, with a sequence in silent film comedy style showing the exploits of Macheath's gang of sneak-thieves. Once into the story, however, the film becomes weighed down with Havel's text. Beautifully played by a trinity cast of Czech character players, it is desperately short on visual interest. Jeremy Irons makes a peculiar 30-second appearance as a prisoner grinning behind the bars of a police cell.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Demanding her right to twinkle

THE present crop of books and documentaries about Marilyn Monroe must seem to some to be over-milking the thirtieth anniversary of her death, an excuse for glamorous pictures and dramatic allegations at the height of an otherwise slow summer. Yet the Monroe story has a lot going for it.

There is, for a start, Monroe herself, who was possessed of the female form in a most spectacular manifestation. There are also her relationships with powerful men, both called Kennedy, and the mystery that still envelops her death at the age of 36. A tragic end to her life, a tragic beginning (12 foster homes in 14 years), and in between a journey to stardom, a trip to the moon, in Cole Porter's phrase, on gossamer wings.

Last night Channel 4 gave us *Marilyn: Something's Got to Give*, a documentary with a difference, for this was the first extended look at the footage from that last movie. *Something's Got to Give* was an ironic title, for Monroe was dead before it could be finished. The footage proves little except that Monroe was back at her physical best and that Dean Martin, for all his limitations, was good at seeming to play a scene with an actress who was in fact home in bed.

Monroe's absenteeism made the old British Leyland look like a hotbed of workaholics. She turned up for one day of the first 14 and spasmodically thereafter. The film's producer, Henry Weinstein, furious at the time, sees things differently in retrospect. Twentieth Century Fox even-

tually fired Monroe, which merely wasted \$2 million. The studio was on its financial knees, brought there by the unhappy coincidence of funding two wayward stars at the same time: Monroe, and Elizabeth Taylor in *Cleopatra*.

Weinstein takes the view that if you hired Marilyn Monroe you did not schedule eight weeks of shooting; you scheduled 16 weeks. Fox needed Monroe more than she needed Fox. When Fox fired her they used the excuse that she had flown without permission to New York to sing "Happy Birthday" to President Kennedy. In fact everyone on the set knew she was going in advance and Fox could have used the trip as marvellous publicity.

Monroe returned and took more time off, claiming exhaustion. Beautiful actress visits womanising president and returns exhausted — well, what do you know? Eventually Fox bowed to the inevitable and reinstated her on the movie, but she died a month before filming was due to resume.

Murder? Suicide? Whatever it was, Monroe had written her own epitaph some weeks earlier. In a telegram to Robert Kennedy turning down an invitation to visit the family, she said: "I am involved in a freedom ride protesting the loss of minority rights for our few remaining earthbound stars. All we demanded was our right to twinkle." In fact Monroe was a schemer who demanded much more than that, but half a truth is better than none.

PETER BARNARD

ARTS BRIEF

Royal rescue

PRINCE EDWARD has stepped in to revive hopes of bringing the musical *Billy* to the stage by obtaining exclusive rights to the show for the National Youth Music Theatre. The show, starring Andrew O'Connor, is to be the NYMT's Edinburgh Fringe contribution this year. The production has the blessing of Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, who have adapted *Billy Liar* by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, and Don Black, who has written

the lyrics. An attempted West End production last year by Theatre Division failed.

Last chance...

ALAN AYCKBOURN's plays often involve ordinary characters in ordinary situations. His latest is no exception — three couples meet in a restaurant to celebrate Laura Stratton's 54th birthday but disaster lies only a brandy glass away. As liquor loosens tongues, vulnerabilities reveal themselves; Ayckbourn's *Time of My Life* is both funny and invigorating. Final performance at Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 370 541) is on Wednesday.

Red dragons need not apply

TOMORROW *Porcelain* transfers from the Ecce Terra Theatre in Camden Town to the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs, a venue that doesn't normally receive plays from elsewhere on the London Fringe. From Bristol, yes, from the Croydon Warehouse, though only by prior arrangement.

But the leg-men of the Royal Court, who are said to visit every new work on the Fringe, were sufficiently impressed by Chay Yew's 90-minute drama that they widened the usual August gap in their schedules and slipped in a three-week season of *Porcelain*.

The central character is a British-born Chinese youth, friendless in a London he finds largely hostile. The sole character in the company's first play, *Madame Mao's Memories*, was the notorious Jiang Qing, wife of Chairman Mao, crouched in her prison cell and recalling her switchboard of a life.

No prizes, therefore, for surmising that Mu-Lan Theatre Company is Chinese-orientated. Or rather, since the company's next play is set in Japan, Orient-orientated.

Mu-Lan is effectively run by Singapore-born Glen Goei, co-director as well as designer on *Porcelain*, and London-born Sacha Brooks, lighting designer and producer. The National Theatre canteen was where the two were introduced to each other, at a time when each was looking for a partner to work with.

Goei talks rapidly, Brooks is slower to join in and seems cautious — there is even a clipboard of notes in front of him — but when he joins in his words, too, come tumbling out. Neither can imagine enjoying himself working in any other field but the theatre.

By any standards, Goei's career as an actor got off to a remarkable start. Within weeks of leaving drama school, he was playing the title role in the West End production of David Henry Hwang's Broadway hit, *M. Butterfly*. Few Oriental actors find work so quickly, and it was in part to

Jeremy Kingston meets the London-based Chinese theatre troupe coming to the Royal Court this week with *Porcelain*



Glen Goei: offering a voice for the Chinese community

increase the opportunities for them in British theatre that Mu-Lan was founded.

"The name has two meanings," Goei explains. "It is the first flower of spring, which is the magnolia, and it is the name of a Chinese Joan of Arc, a famous female warrior who battled against the generals two or three thousand years ago."

The Mu-Lan Theatre Company was founded by two

ladies, one who is a councillor in Lewisham and the other who was the arts officer at Wandsworth Council. Both are Chinese and felt there should be a company that could represent the Chinese community. They chose the name for quite obvious reasons, I suppose. The first flower of spring because this is a new company doing new things. And the 'female warrior' because the undertaking

is just such an uphill task." Tsai Chin scored a personal success in the role of Jiang Qing at the Latchmere last winter, and *Madame Mao's Memories* goes out on tour this autumn. "What pleased us," says Brooks, "is that audiences at both *Madame Mao* and *Porcelain* were about 50 per cent Chinese and 50 per cent Caucasian. We don't want to be either ghettoised on the one hand, or just some kind of cultural diversion on the other."

Goei continues: "When you say 'Chinese theatre' to some people — perhaps to most people — they think, 'Oh, exotic, red dragons and so on'. We haven't taken that approach. *Madame Mao* is a contemporary person. Or at least her influence will continue to be felt for some time."

"And the experience of not belonging that some British-born Chinese go through is very contemporary — though of course you don't have to be Chinese and gay like the character in *Porcelain* to feel an outsider."

"We hope Mu-Lan can do two things: provide a voice for the Chinese community, and provide work for Chinese and other Oriental actors and directors. At the moment we are at the stage that black and Asian theatre was at 15 years ago. Most black actor friends of mine are always in work these days, but this wouldn't have been the case in the Seventies."

Many Chinese actors are often out of work. Television traps them in the stereotype of the inscrutable petty criminal and seldom offers much else in the way of roles. Once upon a time, Indian and Pakistani actors were in a similar situation, endlessly cast as shopkeepers with occasional breaks for a tale of the Raj.

A Chinese Kipling would certainly help. In his absence, the Chinese Joan of Arc must do whatever he can do.

Porcelain previews tonight at the Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 3554) and opens on Wednesday. It continues until August 22.

CONCERTS: Harmoncourt and colleagues in Graz; the Gabrieli Consort at the Proms

THIS year marked the eighth Styriarte, the festival masterminded by Nikolaus Harmoncourt in his home city of Graz, the capital of the Austrian province of Styria. Graz is a prosperous, culturally thriving city with three universities and two professional symphony orchestras. Located roughly half way between Vienna and Salzburg, but to the south, Graz could perhaps be forgiven for any aspirations it might entertain as regards its summer festival. The festival has already established a strong foundation on which to build, though one problem which needs urgent attention, whatever is intended for the future, is the lack of a full-size concert venue.

This year's festival broke with tradition by basing itself not on a single composer but on the theme of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mendelssohn's incidental music to Shakespeare's comedy and Purcell's *Fairy Queen* selected themselves, and there was three weeks' worth of other summer night's music presented by such artists as Concentus Musicus Wien, Sequentia Köln and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe — the major events all under the direction of Harmoncourt himself.

The Mendelssohn score was presented alongside a monologue compressing the play (in the Tieck/Schlegel transla-

Hot stuff on a midsummer night



Fiery: Harmoncourt

tion), devised and brilliantly delivered by Christoph Banziger, with evocative lighting by Philipp Harmoncourt.

The narration would have seemed long even without Teldec's insistence that we manage without air-conditioning. But the chief victim of this hot summer night was the woodwind section of the COE, whose intonation was not worthy of this fine ensemble. Harmoncourt's direction, meanwhile, put one in mind

of recent productions of the play with punk fairies in bower boots.

Far more successful was the performance of Mendelssohn's own diabolic counterpart a few nights later: *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*. This fascinating, neglected cantata, recreating Goethe's account of the first Witches' Sabbath on the Harz Mountains, shows Mendelssohn in an unfamiliar light. In place of the civilised veneer, there is the demonic shrieking of woodwind in the chorus where druids set upon Christians with torches and pitchforks. Even the hymn-like ending has an ironic twist, in that it glorifies the All-Father of the triumphant pagans.

Under Harmoncourt's fiery direction, the COE and Arnold Schoenberg Choir were superb throughout, and Birgit Remmert, Uwe Hellmann, Thomas Hampson and René Pape made a strong team of soloists.

The *Walpurgisnacht* programme also included a powerful, passionate performance of the Schumann Piano Concerto by Martha Argerich, while the earlier concert had featured Gidon Kremer as soloist in Beethoven's Violin

Rough guide to the glories of Venice

great and good, could not quite transport the imagination here.

That was partly down to McCreech's manner, which seemed a touch over-exuberant. The ensemble between the different choirs of voices or instruments was often approximate, and though the sound was outwardly as glorious, and, in Andrea Gabrieli's lovely Mass movements, as sweet as one might wish, McCreech missed some finer detail.

Rhythms, for example,

could have been more dynamically sprung, and we could have done without the affectingly truncated last syllable of the word "Alleluia" in Giovanni Gabrieli's *O sacrum convivium*. Similar misgivings arose in the well chosen sequence of five Psalm settings by Schütz — magnificently illustrative music — in the first half. One sequence of long notes in the bristling celebratory Psalm 150 in particular seemed rather thoughtlessly shaped. Much responsibility in the

BARRY MILLINGTON

Mass rested upon the singing of the principal high tenor, Robert Horn, who, despite the innate purity of his sound, seemed too fragile. On the other hand, the voice of the falsettist Robert Harre Jones cut through even the biggest ensemble like a laser beam, yet somehow managed to stay beautiful, while Charles Pott and Christopher Purves provided coolly refined baritone and bass solo lines. Excellent organ playing came from James O'Donnell and Timothy Roberts, while the choral singers and vast instrumental group (in which were included 16 trumpets) made a generally magnificent noise.

STEPHEN PETTIT

A gospel of hate — or of hope

The Nation of Islam has a bad name in America. But in Britain, Lesley Thomas reports, self help rather than black supremacy is the message

Every Saturday, amid the hustle and bustle of East London's Ridley Road market, a handful of well-dressed black men decry the white oppressor. They are not demonstrating. They do not even appear to be angry. Nor are they harassing busy shoppers. They are approached by intrigued — usually young — black people who are soon involved in animated discussions about their position in white history and white society.

The sharp-suited men, typically wearing bow ties and crisp white shirts, are members of a black Muslim sect called the Nation of Islam. The NOI, established in America in the early 1930s, is both a religious and a black nationalist movement. With its uncompromising separatist stance and wealth of white conspiracy theories, it is to black civil rights what radical feminism is to the women's struggle for equality. Followers of the Nation of Islam believe that its founder, Elijah Muhammad, was sent by Allah to free black people from the white subjugators by reintroducing them to their pre-slavery history, which includes, according to the NOI, adherence to the Islamic faith.

The NOI teaches that it is in the hands of black people themselves to change the situation. The white establishment is believed to be an untrustworthy and malevolent force wholly responsible for the situation of the black race and therefore cannot be relied upon as an ally or benefactor. Racial integration, therefore, is out.

Although the NOI has attracted members from all walks of life, in many instances the movement has turned criminals into clean-living citizens. The American author James Baldwin in his book *The Fire Next Time* said in 1963: "Elijah Muhammad has been able to do what generations of welfare workers and committees and resolutions and reports and housing projects and playgrounds have failed to do... he has done all these things which our Christian church has spectacularly failed to do."

In Britain in the 1990s, where racism is rife despite laws and campaigns against it, the climate among black people is receptive to the teachings of the NOI. Black British citizens — now in their third generation — are still over-represented below the poverty line and under-represented among the professional classes. The NOI message offers both an explanation of and a solution to black people's position in Britain.

Marcia Dixon, the religious affairs editor of the *Voice*, a weekly

newspaper for blacks, is, as a committed Christian, not a supporter of the NOI. She is not surprised, however, that it has attracted hundreds of converts in Britain. "The Nation of Islam talks about black people empowering themselves and doing something for themselves and at the moment a lot of black people identify with that. They are ambitious and they want to be successful. Islam has given them the self-esteem and the drive they need to be successful."

Africans and Caribbeans, she says, are traditionally very spiritual and young black people need a religion that they can identify with. Christianity — according to the NOI — offers no solutions to black oppression other than turning the other cheek. The religion was also, NOI believes, forced upon black people by their white slave-masters.

Accepting Islam is not seen as a conversion but as a reversion to the faith that many black Africans had before they were taken as slaves. "Many of them believe that Christianity has failed them," Ms Dixon says. "They look at Christianity and say: 'What has it done for our parents?' In reality, she says, black Christian churches have helped a lot of people 'get off the scrap-heap'. Christianity has got an image problem. Islam is trendy."

The Nation of Islam would not want to appear fashionable, but it cannot be denied that it is a movement that is in vogue. Spike Lee's film biography of the Nation of Islam's one-time spokesman Malcolm X is due out in Britain next year. It tells the story of a man — born Malcolm Little in 1925 — who, after a life of drug-dealing and burglary, converted to Islam in prison and after his release in 1952 became a leading light in the movement. Although he split from the NOI before his assassination in 1965, Malcolm X is still associated with the movement and the film will draw attention to it more than ever before. Rap groups such as Public Enemy openly support the movement and in particular its leader, Louis Farrakhan.

The promotion of racial separatism by the NOI has unfortunately found common ground with the likes of the National Front in Britain. An editorial in *Nationalism Today* in 1988 praised Mr Farrakhan for his contribution to "the fight against multi-racialism", adding: "We are ready and willing to work with those of other races who wish to maintain their separateness and identity." Many white observers believe that a rejection of integration amounts to racism and



Spreading the message: Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, with his followers in New York — his uncompromising black separatism has attracted a wealth of criticism

makes the NOI no different from far-right organisations. One such critic, Tony Robson of the anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, is highly suspicious of the movement. "They are extreme right-wingers — the religious input is minimal. There's the odd quote from the Koran but it's really just a convenient peg. They have been working steadily in this country since the mid-Eighties to recruit members."

Whites, he says, should not be the "scapegoat" for black people's oppression but the blame should be directed at the capitalist system. Mr Robson's criticisms of the NOI are mainly directed at Mr Farrakhan, who has been banned from Britain since 1986 after the then Home Secretary Douglas Hurd was petitioned by 85 MPs. "Farrakhan is notoriously anti-semitic," Mr Robson says, but claims there is no evidence of anti-semitism among the NOI in Britain. "They are playing it very softly in this country."

Mr Farrakhan's comments have angered the Jewish community in America and have caused black public figures to distance themselves from him. The Reverend Jesse Jackson had to abandon plans to enjoy members of the NOI as bodyguards during the 1984 presidential election campaign because of Mr Farrakhan's comments about Jews.

Black Labour party activist Marc Wadsworth believes that Mr Farrakhan's position is "based more on religious rivalry than anti-semitism". Mr Farrakhan, who has led the NOI since 1975, was reported in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* as telling a black audience in 1985: "I have a problem with

FARRAKHAN: THE RECORD IN AMERICA

THE Rev Louis Farrakhan is poised for another parade across the front pages of America's newspapers, as controversy inevitably surrounds Spike Lee's film *Malcolm X*. Nowadays Mr Farrakhan likes to temper his past statements on Jews by saying he was mainly referring to Israel's political policies, and his words were twisted by the white media.

He has been quoted as saying: in a radio broadcast in 1984, "the Jews don't like Farrakhan, so they call me Hitler. Well, Hitler was a very great man"; to the National

Press Club, Judaism is a "dirty religion"; to a Washington rally in 1985, "Jews know their wickedness, not just Zionism, which is an outgrowth of Jewish transgression". In Los Angeles, he reportedly advised Jews: "Don't push your six million [Holocaust victims] when we lost 100 million [in slavery]."

These remarks now are largely dismissed as publicity seeking, and it should be noted that before Mr Farrakhan made them the Supreme Court Judge Clarence Thomas said he admired him.

But his credibility with many black leaders is low. Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz, described him as "an opportunist". New York's black mayor, David Dinkins, has condemned him. Martin Luther King's widow, Coretta, said she agreed with the Nation of Islam's commitment to self-help and self-improvement, but "when it comes to intergroup relations and the kind of statements and philosophy that has been perpetrated, it has been extremely harmful."

KATE MUIR

Jewish people... because I am declaring to the world that they are not the chosen people of God. I am declaring to the world that you the black people of America and the Western hemisphere are God's chosen people."

Mr Wadsworth added: "I am not a supporter of Farrakhan's but I know that they have been commended for their work in the black community — particularly their anti-drugs campaign. They have helped a lot of people turn away from crime. The Nation of Islam are being picked on in Britain at the moment because they don't believe in integration." A recent Radio 4 report portrayed the Nation of Islam as a far-right racist organisation. The writer Darius Howe says: "It was a vicious and deliberate attack on the Nation of

Islam. I complained bitterly to the BBC." The report claimed that anti-racist campaigners were worried about a growth of such support in Britain.

Anne Kayne, of the Anti Racist Alliance, says, however: "They are not an organisation that we would target. We would dissociate ourselves from Farrakhan because of some of his reported comments but we would not campaign against the Nation of Islam. They are a reflection of the problem of racism. They are a knee-jerk reaction against it."

Since the Nation of Islam mistrusts the establishment there is little chance of co-operation with the media. When Alex Haley first attempted to interview Malcolm X

in the late Fifties he was told: "You're another one of the white man's tools sent to spy." Ralph Daley, a Nation of Islam minister in Britain, politely refused to be interviewed and informed me that no members save Mr Farrakhan himself are authorised to speak to the press. "People always distort what we say. We're not animals or thugs. We're just doing something for ourselves. All the institutions that have been set up to help black people in Britain have failed. We're just trying to help ourselves."

At a Nation of Islam meeting in Brixton, south London, ten days ago, it became obvious that the depiction of the black Muslims in the media was a far cry from the reality. After a prayer, around 80 men and women, mostly aged under 30, watched a video tape of

Mr Farrakhan. It was not a recording of a vitriolic attack on every race except the African, but a two-hour lecture on drug abuse, rape, child abuse and poverty: an attack, if on anything, upon the horrors of everyday life in modern North America. His speech, entitled: "Stop the killing", called for a return to traditional family values in the black community. Sound parenting and less TV, he said, would raise upright black citizens.

His ideals were echoed by Mr Daley. He said that while the white establishment did not have black interests at heart, one should not enter into unnecessary conflict with it. "Be polite to policemen... Always behave in the best possible manner."

His message was one of black self-determination. If white people refuse to give black people good jobs, he said, "we can create a job for ourselves". He announced that the NOI planned to set up Saturday schools because black parents are dissatisfied with the education system. "We are going to teach our children English as it should be spoken, not street talk, as well as maths and science."

He advised the meeting not to pay any attention to negative media coverage of the NOI. "Minister Farrakhan is not a racist," he said. As for any reports of sympathy with far-right politics he said: "If they tell a lie for long enough, people will start to believe it." And he had a conspiracy theory to explain the bad press, believing that white people do not like to see black people in control of their own destiny. "People are upset by us because we are not doing what the slave master wants us to."



"At the time I felt I lost a mother and gained a needy person"

This Friday The TES looks at the pressures facing children who nurse their parents.

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Finding the ace at the midnight casino

An elusive poker star decides to put his cards on the table

Mansour Matloubi is the only British citizen to have won the world poker championships, in Las Vegas at Binion's Horseshoe Casino in 1990, scooping up \$835,000. He is the only man to have won it with such self assurance and astounding luck that even such masters as Stu "The Kid" Ungar, Johnny "The Orient Express" Chan and "Amarillo Slim" Preston were impressed. Now, in a BBC2 documentary, he is one of the first poker players seen playing live on BBC television. He is also one of the most elusive men in Britain.

"It is all down to luck," says the manager of the Victoria Club in Edgware Road, central London, where Mr Matloubi was last spotted when I asked about doing an interview. "We can leave him a message. He might come in he might not. It's a gamble."

For two days the phone didn't go. I went to the club, watched the video of the final session of his 1990 championship against Hans "Tuna" Lund from Reno. Mr Matloubi won a then world record pot of \$1.6 million when he beat a hand of aces up by drawing a third ten for his last card. The game they were playing was Texas Hold'em, a faster and fiercer variation of seven-card stud. I learnt that six million people play poker regularly in Britain and that there are 119 casinos around the country.

At 11pm, three nights later, the manager rang and said he had seen Mr Matloubi. I should turn up at the Victoria Club before midnight. The car tyre blew, I got there by 12.10. Mr Matloubi still hadn't

shown: the girls at the front desk were indifferent, I obviously wasn't a high roller. Then a charming Iranian with slightly crumpled trousers walked in and overheard my lamentations said: "You are in luck. I am Mansour Matloubi."

The goddess of chance is what draws most people to the Victoria Club and dominates conversations. But as Mr Matloubi spirited me up the stairs he explained that poker is only 25 per cent luck, the rest is skill.

The Victoria Club is a mixture of Blackpool cardies and Monte Carlo glamour. The clientele range from Lebanese doctors, middle-aged toupéed Texans, up-and-coming Essex lads, Chinese in faded slippers and old ladies with flasks of tea playing for anything from 50p to £1,000 a throw.

The gaming room was disarmingly nice and quiet. Mr Matloubi ordered coffee. "I have decided to talk to you because poker has such a bad name in Britain," he says. "In America it is the national game. It is a sign of manhood. Unfortunately in Europe it is not so respected. I hesitate to tell my children that I play poker in case they are teased at school."

Mr Matloubi has had a lean period since he won the world championships. Then last week he came second in the

British Open title, the most prestigious title in Europe. Although London has long been regarded outside Nevada and New Jersey as the gaming capital of the world, the indigenous population have never proved high rollers. "The Chinese are the best because they give nothing away, then the Americans, they gamble on everything. The Arabs are amateurs but they love the thrill of it. There is no reason why the British shouldn't be good, they are just too uptight," he says.

Born in Iran, Mr Matloubi began playing poker at ten. At 17 he moved to Britain to do a degree in mathematics at Cardiff. He remained a student for ten years and still lives in Cardiff with his wife and three children.

"Poker is the king of games. No other game needs as much intelligence," he says. "People think mathematics is important but the probabilities do not take long to learn. It is the psychology and personality that counts. You have to be born with that."

I comment on the lack of



When the chips are down: poker could soon be set to shed its seedy image in Britain

omy has been so bad that few people are putting themselves forward. You have to gamble enough for it to hurt. If you earn £30,000 a year there is no thrill in spending only £100 on gambling. It has to be £20,000 and it has to sting. It is quite masochistic... I think it is only fair to tell people that I'm quite good. Half the people are put off, the other half enjoy beating me."

Mr Matloubi admits that he is an addict. "There is no greater thrill than to bluff a man, trap him and outfox him. The most important thing is to keep your body still, one twitch and you give yourself away. Experience is everything."

His normally impassive face twitches when he talks about the morals of gambling. "At least you are not hurting yourself. It is not like smoking or alcohol addiction and it is far less anti-social than fruit machines."

Suddenly he jumps up, excuses himself and darts away. Ten minutes later he is back. He has joined the high rollers. The interview is forgotten as he lays out chip after chip. I am not good luck. Two Americans, sunglasses are playing around their faces, large piles of chips and tapping their fat fingers on the table.

Then, suddenly, they stand up, the Americans have their flies undone and have to pull their trousers up. Clearly there are some things about poker I still don't understand. It is 2am and dinner time. We troop into the dining room for prawn cocktails and scampi.

"At supper we talk of nothing but the game. We respect each other. Occasionally someone boils over but it is soon forgotten," Mr Matloubi says. "Most of my friends are poker players. I find it hard to talk to people who aren't."

It was about 3am and the air was thick with failure, but tired-looking addicts carried on, scratching vaguely at their grubby shirts. "What I hope is that this documentary makes poker more respectable," Mr Matloubi says.

Luckily for Mr Matloubi poker is gradually becoming chic. The British edition of *Esquire* magazine now has a poker column. People such as novelist Martin Amis, the BBC's Alan Yentob and Bibendum chef Simon Hopkinson are all regulars and the documentary, presented by poker fanatic and writer Anthony Holden, is a pilot for a possible series.

"In my dreams I would like to see poker rival snooker in popularity and chess in respectability," Mr Matloubi said. "Then I would start training my children."

ALICE THOMSON

Anthony Holden on Poker will be shown on Wednesday on BBC2.

John 14:6-15:20

What a great way to run a railway

French Rail is the biggest network in western Europe. Robin Neillands gets on board to find out exactly what it offers



I FIRST realised that the men of the SNCF are not as other men when a group of us were slumped over our backpacks on the platform of a small deserted railway station in the Auvergne. We had walked about 20 miles that day, the weather was unreasonably hot and we had had enough.

Round the corner came a small local train and when it stopped we all piled on board. When we tried to pay, however, it proved difficult. Eventually the conductor explained that he did not know the fare as the station we were waiting at had been closed for years, "but you all looked so exhausted that we decided to stop and give you a ride".

Somehow I do not see that happening on the Chiltern Turbo.

The men and women of the SNCF (Société nationale des chemins de fer français) have always been of independent spirit. During the second world war they were among the first and the most enthusiastic of the Resistance, quick to help the escaping prisoner of war or the evading airman, and they suffered for it. This spirit remains. The outstanding feature of the French railway worker is pride in the job and a willingness to do it well. Somehow, etc.

Then there is the matter of the railway station, the focus of life in any French town. If you cannot find an English newspaper, a small hotel or a good restaurant, around the railway station is the place to look. If the other restaurants are full the one at the station buffet will often serve very good food at a bearable price. At a station you can leave your luggage, rest your feet, telephone home. A French railway station is where travellers come to rest.

Among all the other travellers' blessings it has to offer, France is endowed with an excellent, modern railway system. The French railway network, the SNCF, is the largest rail network in western Europe, one that probes into every corner of France.

Rail travel through France is the perfect way to get about, particularly if the train journey can be linked in with some of the other rail services that the SNCF has to offer. These are nothing if not varied.

There are the *train-à-vélo*, or train with cycle hire, and *train-à-auto*, or train with car hire. Then there is *Motorail*, which whisks cars from the Channel coast to Brive, Bordeaux, Avignon, Narbonne and beyond, a scheme now linked with P&O and Hoverspeed for the Channel crossing and a sprawling network of sleepers.

There is a wide range of rail passes for travellers and students

with time on their hands, while those in a hurry will want to try the famous 180mph TGVs (*trains à grande vitesse*), which hurtle across France at alarming speeds.

Others could try "Air France and Rail", which offers inclusive air and rail travel from many UK provincial airports to every village of France that sports a line of track. One of the new ventures this year is the extended line from Paris to the newly built station at Marne la Vallée Chessy, the stop for Euro Disney, a 40-minute ride away. Trains leave every ten minutes and the return fare is only FF31 (about £3.30). When it comes to integrating their transport systems, the French don't miss a trick.

The SNCF, also known as French Rail, has also gone into the holiday business with its *Liberté* holiday programme, which offers visitors the chance to rail-and-stay

their way around France at prices starting from £199. These holidays are linked into a France Vacances rail-rover pass offering four days' rail travel over any distance in any 15-day period. Even travel on the TGVs is allowed, although here the seats have to be booked in advance. Car hire is available at a reduced rate and the price includes seven nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation at selected family hotels and cut-price fares for the Channel crossing.

The France Vacances rail pass can be bought separately and is popular with students and the roving backpacker. Depending on the price, the pass offers the choice of four days' unlimited travel in any 15-day period or nine days' unlimited travel inside one month.

The 15-day pass costs from £86, the one-month pass from £148. People under 26 can also buy the Inter-Rail pass for £180, which allows a month of unlimited second-class travel. For those who want to rove at will in France, stopping in, say, a dozen places for two or three days, such passes are excellent value, and bonuses include reduced rates on ferries, at certain hotels and on the Paris Métro and buses.

French Rail, however, is not interested only in the young. People in the *troisième âge*, whatever their nationality, are also catered for with two tickets, the *Carte 4 Temps* and the *Carte Plein Temps*. The *Carte 4 Temps* (£13.40) offers the traveller aged over 60 a 50 per cent reduction on four single journeys, taken inside 12 months. The *Carte Plein Temps* is rather more all-embracing and offers an unlimited number of reduced rate journeys — 50 per cent off in France, 30 per cent off on international journeys. The one-year card costs £23.60. Both tickets are available from the French Rail Centre in Piccadilly, London.



Steaming ahead: the pride of the French railways is the 180mph TGV, but there are still some classic old trains that recall the days of more leisurely travel

Further discounts are available if the travellers go in groups. The scheme holds great appeal for school parties and returning veterans. Parties of between six and 24 people travelling together can enjoy discounts of up to 20 per cent, and get 30 per cent off the standard fare. These tickets offer another good way to get around in France and tend to be popular during half term when schools go swarming abroad.

Those people who love to travel but hate to fly will find overnight travel on French Rail a delightful way to reach the *riviera*, even if thieves have recently taken to boarding trains in the Rhône valley and robbing passengers while they sleep. Although steps are being taken to combat this menace and no cases have been reported lately, wedging the compartment door shut is probably a good idea.

A wide choice of accommodation is available, from simple six-berth *couchettes* in second class to four-berth *couchettes* in first class, as

well as proper sleeping compartments, every one with a real bed and en suite washing facilities. Every sleeper carriage comes complete with an attendant who will serve snacks and drinks.

The pride of the French Rail network is the TGV, the high-speed train that now reaches 180mph or more and has cut hours off train travel across France. These trains have proved so popular that they are always crowded. The solution has been to design a series of double-decker TGVs that will be entering service in about 18 months' time.

High technology has always been a feature of the French Rail network and the trend looks likely to continue. In spite of the Orient Express, which forges across France en route for Venice and beyond, nostalgia for the golden age of rail travel is not much in evidence.

The French are not as interested in bygone as the British railway

buff. Many railway lines, like the ones that once took travellers through the Cevennes or through the Orne valley of the Suisse Normande have fallen into ruin, but there are still some small and classic trains, including the *petit train jaune*, which takes travellers from Perpignan up to the high Cerdagne plateau in the western Pyrenees, or the little railway of the Ardèche, or the *petit train de L'Ariège* and the rack railway that hoists a train to the peak of La Rhune in the Basque country. Even here, though, steam has largely given way to diesel or electricity.

Those who want to take a rail-based holiday in France are still offered plenty of choice. Railtours provides 11-night Railcruises through rural France stopping off at attractive locations, and rail package holidays to Paris and St Jean de Luz are available through Panorama Rail Experience at prices from £379, which include return rail fares from Paris, ferry tickets and half-board hotel accommodation at the resort.

Air-Rail, train and drive and Motorail bookings can be obtained from the French Travel Service at the telephone number given below.

The train is still one of the simplest and most delightful ways to travel about France. It offers speed and comfort as well as the view out of the window. With a rail pass and a small suitcase, you can easily explore the delights of rural France and see a lot of country as you travel along.

● Full information, advice, reservations and tickets for every French Rail service can be obtained from French Railways Ltd, 179 Piccadilly, London W1V 0BA, or British Rail International Rail Centre, Victoria Station, London SW1 (071-834 2345). France Vacances rail passes can be obtained from the French Rail office or from Hoverspeed offices at Victoria Station in London. Information on France "Liberté" holidays from France Accueil Hotels (0380 830125) and French Travel Service (081-742 3377). Motorail bookings using Visa or Access cards can be made at the French Rail office or by dialling Motorail on 071-409 3518. Railtours on 0785 51217 and Panorama Rail Experience on 0273 722792.



Enjoy a VIP welcome with our exclusive holiday offer for readers of The Times: full details on page 6

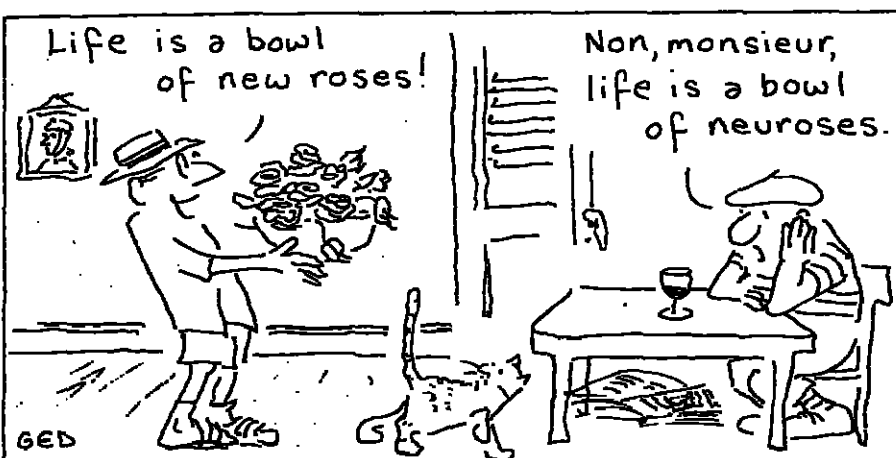
Taking pleasure in pain

As a positive-thinking American once said to me as I lay dying in Aspen, Colorado, "At least it's an English-speaking country — I'd sure hate to be sick in Japanese." Being sick in France is no piece of cake, either. The American's "sure-fire remedy" was a can of Coke and a tub of ice-cream. It could have been worse — if I'd been in France it would have been a week of injections and suppositories.

France is a nation of hypochondriacs. The concept of the body as a temple is holy writ, and there are always malevolent spirits in need of exorcism. It is no coincidence that French uses the same word for sickness as for evil (*le mal*; hence Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal*, usually translated as *The Flowers of Evil*, is also *The Flowers of Sickness*). One is not ill in French, one has illness: *j'ai mal*. It follows that it should be possible to drive out the intruder: and if you have to demolish the building to evict the squatter, then so be it. The threat of treatment in France is usually enough to terrify you back to rude health.

I recently visited one of the shrines called a *pharmacie* (also known as an *espace pharmaceutique*). The pharmacist's motto emblazoned on a banner was: *S'en inquiéter aujourd'hui c'est être tranquille demain* ("Worry today to be peaceful tomorrow"), a more sinister and expensive version of "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" encouraging mental if not physical breakdown. The list of French anxieties is endless. The punning answer to the question of whether it is possible to enjoy life — "It all depends on the liver" — applies with particular force in France, where *le foie* is the main focus of pathological

ESSENTIAL FRENCH: IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH



fear. The fate of Prometheus, whose liver was eternally devoured by vultures, is a classical myth lived out daily by most Frenchmen. *Avoir une crise de foie* — to have a liver crisis, ie, indigestion. To be treated by *un digestif*, ie, a stiff drink. *Se manger les foies* — to eat one's livers, ie, to worry oneself needlessly. *Avoir les foies* — to be scared to death.

Health. Regarded as an abnormal, semi-miraculous state of affairs, doomed to be short-lived, *tu as bonne mine* — you look well; also has a second, ironic meaning — you look a right charlie! It is a sign of the French mentality that healthiness is equated with stupidity. The antonym is *tu as mauvaise mine*, or, better still, *une mine de déterré* — you look like death warmed up (lit-

erally, like a disinterred body). **Common complaints** *Avoir le cafard* — to have the cockroach, ie, the blues. A more poetic alternative is *avoir le spleen* (from Baudelaire, who dismissed the ambition to better oneself thus: "le monde est un vaste hôpital où tous les malades veulent changer de lit" — the world is a huge hospital where all the patients want to change beds).

La nausée — nausea. Also the title of a novel by Jean-Paul Sartre, elevating nausea to the status of a metaphysical insight. See also *La Peste* (The Plague) by Albert Camus, an allegory of the human condition. **Le SIDA** — Aids. *La peste* or *peyda*, combination of *pey* (short for *psychos*) and *IDA* means fear of Aids. **Psychoanalyse**

This gives a new linguistic dignity to the traditional *malade imaginaire*. *Se faire/avoir des complexes* — to have a hang-up.

Être névrosé — the smart equivalent to liver trouble. *Un lapsus* — (Freudian) slip. Useful variants on *foi* (mad): *dément*, *insensé*, *cinglé*, *dingue* (also *dingo*). *Tous des oufs*. "All Mad", is the title of a recent rap record using *verlan*, back-to-front French. *Lou-fogie* is another argotic distortion of the root *foi* (foof for short). *Démouler* — to go off the rails, go off one's rocker.

French has made verbs out of the states we commonly treat as nouns, for example, *criser*, *stresser*, *angoisser*.

Death The phonetic proximity of *amour* and *mort* encourages the French to be more than half in love with careful death. *Râler* — to give the death

rantle; also to grouse or moan: *agoniser* — one of the *four amis*; not to agonise, but to be in the throes of death: *le feu M Dupont* — the late Mr Dupont. Alternatives to *mourir* and the more brutal *crever*: *décéder* — official jargon (decease); *trépasser* — literary (depart); *le trépas*: être rappelé devant Dieu — pious. *Manger les pissenlits par la racine* — to eat the dandelions by their roots, i.e., pushing up daisies. *Casser sa pipe* — to break one's pipe, i.e., kick the bucket. *Un macabbe* (abbrev: *un macab*) — dead body. Also *un charogne* (a common insult).

Treatment I once rented a room in a house owned by a *chirurgien-dentiste* and *dermatologue* husband and wife. For a year they kept my teeth and skin under close surveillance. When I woke up one morning with a face full of mosquito bites, Madame lathered me in lotions and presented me at lunch like a sort of strawberry tart à la crème anglaise. At least it wasn't suppositiores.

The proverbial wisdom, *le remède est pire que le mal* (the cure is worse than the disease) has inspired a whole literary tradition. Molière's quack doctor is a *charlatan*. *Un rubib* (from the Algerian) is a common synonym for *médecin* (can be either bon or mauvais). *Body-builder* (regular-er verb) and *l'aérobie* are Anglo-American imports.

Prevention *Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir* — prevention is better than cure. Note that the French word for male contraceptive is *le préservatif*. *La capote anglaise*, the English hood, is the counterpart to French letter.

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Stay in luxury at a French château

From Alsace to the Côte d'Azur, from Brittany to the Dordogne, *Times* readers are invited to stay in splendour and enjoy a gastronomic treat at a top hotel

Today *The Times*, in association with Relais & Châteaux, is pleased to present a unique opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of 42 carefully selected establishments of individual character across France.

Regarded by many as the world's finest chain of hotels and restaurants, Relais & Châteaux have developed, for the first time, an all-inclusive offer only for readers of *The Times*.

The participating establishments offer a VIP welcome for two people with gastronomic dinner, accommodation and breakfast at 30 per cent below normal tariff rates. All government taxes and service charges are included in the proposed prices.

Originating in France, Relais & Châteaux was created by seven like-minded hoteliers in 1954. As well as the châteaux, the group has grown to include abbeys, manor houses, mills or residences of prestige which have been converted into very comfortable hotels or elegant restaurants. Beyond that of quality, the guiding philosophy then, as now, is based on the famous five "Cs" of the association standing for Character, Courtesy, Charm, Charm and Cuisine.

Almost 40 years later the chain is represented in 40 nations. Of the 158 establishments



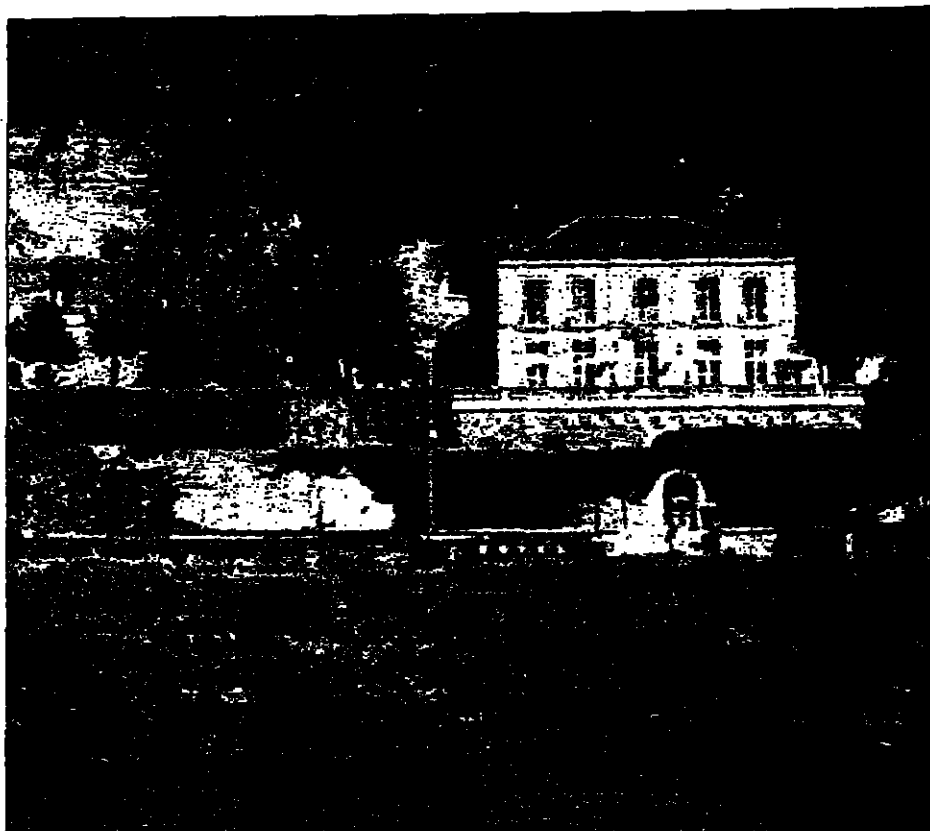
ments in France, 42 non-seasonal hotels have been selected to offer *Times* readers this unique French experience. From a gastronomic experience in Alsace to a late season break on the Côte d'Azur, from the golf courses of Brittany to the culture and beauty of the Loire Valley, Relais & Châteaux offer hospitality at its very best. The majority of Relais & Châteaux hotels are to be found in unspoilt countryside and are renowned for their exceptionally high culinary standards.

The chain offers four different categories of comfort which are recognisable by the colours of their shields. The category Green represents the standard of a pleasant and simple country residence. Blue stands for a fine comfortable house in pleasing surroundings and Yellow for the refined comfort of a superb residence, while the hotels with the Gold shield offer the deluxe service of a sumptuous establishment. Many of the participating hotels, listed below, carry an additional Red shield, representing recognition for outstanding cuisine and the consequent award of two or three Michelin stars.

Readers taking advantage of this offer will receive a "Passport to Privilege" card which, upon presentation at the hotel at the time of arrival, entitles the holder to the discounts and privileges outlined in the offer, subject to availability. In addition to a listing of the participating hotels, readers will also receive a complimentary copy of the Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992 and the corresponding European Road Map, valued at £7.50.

The International Guide provides all the relevant information you will need to help you to select your hotels from those included in this offer, together with a detailed description of all the facilities and services offered by the hotels and restaurants within the group as a whole, including accommodation and restaurant rates and annual and weekly closing dates.

This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between September 15 and December 31, 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. To qualify, simply collect any six of the seven tokens published in *The Times*. Taken one appeared on Saturday. Further tokens will be published throughout the week with details of how to apply for your *Times* "Passport to Privilege" card.



For the sophisticated caveman: Les Hautes Roches

High life in cave country

Relais & Châteaux is a group of independent hotels, some classic, some very individual or even eccentric, and all of the highest quality. One of the most remarkable is Les Hautes Roches on the outskirts of Tours, where 18 of the bedrooms are luxuriously appointed caves.

The restaurant, the offices, and some of the less interesting bedrooms are in an 18th-century château on a cliff overlooking the Loire. But if you are at heart a sophisticated caveman, it is one of the rooms carved into the cliff behind that you will want to stay in. You will find the dents of ancient pickaxes on the ceiling, and traces of sea shells in the walls.

The citizens of Tours used to take to the caves in times of trouble, and were familiar with the ambience. But unlike the hotel's guests, they did not

have beautiful bathrooms and picture windows to make their stay agreeable.

The restaurant looks out over the Loire and its sandy shore. It specialises in fish and seafood, sent down from Brittany, and has a Michelin star. Fig tart in the *tatin* style is another of its delicacies.

The beauties of the Loire valley are not far away — the great châteaux of Amboise and Chenonceau above all. Tours itself is also worth spending a day in. There are plenty of old streets with bars and restaurants, and the cathedral is one of the Gothic wonders with its ravishingly ornate facade.

The French is good here, too: for many years, it was the practice of English families to send their sons and daughters to Tours to polish up their French, and acquire what was considered the best French accent.

SELECT FROM THIS LIST OF PARTICIPATING TOP FRENCH HOTELS

No. 1992 Guide	Establishment	Shield colour	Region	Normal price FF	Offer price FF	No. 1992 Guide	Establishment	Shield colour	Region	Normal price FF	Offer price FF
46	Abbaye la Pomeraye	Blue	Alsace	1930	1350	51	Gilly (Château de)	Blue	Burgundy	2030	1420
17	Abbaye Saint-Michel	Yellow/RG	Burgundy	2030	1420	145	Goyen (Le)	Green	Brittany	1940	1358
42	Admonil (Château d')	Green	Alsace	1420	994	24	Hautes Roches (Les)	Blue	Loire	1550	1100
124	Amat (Jean-Marie)	Blue/RG	Bordeaux	1560	1092	41	Horizon (L')	Green	Alsace	1310	917
105	Antigny (Mas d')	Yellow	Provence	2250	1575	47	Iserbourg (Château d')	Yellow	Alsace	1930	1430
112	Auric (Domaine d')	Blue	South West	1800	1260	115	Lanroque (Château de)	Green	South West	1310	917
30	Bardet (Jean)	Yellow/RG	Loire	2800	1960	35	Laurent	Blue/RG	Loire	2400	1680
14	Bas Breau (Hostellerie du)	Gold	Seine Valley	2600	1950	144	Loeuquenol (Château de)	Yellow/RG	Brittany	1746	1222
118	Bazobe (Domaine de)	Green	South West	1420-1780	994-1246	126	Loges de Laubergade (Les)	Yellow/RG	South West	2320	1624
109	Bel Air Cap Ferrat (Hotel)	Yellow	Côte d'Azur	3400+	2380+	32	Marçay (Château de)	Yellow	Loire	1885	1320
143	Bretagne (Le)	Blue/RG	Brittany	980	690	95	Mas des Herbes Blanches (Le)	Blue	Provence	1620	1134
123	Brindos (Château de)	Yellow	Pyrenees	1950	1365	94	Noves (Auberge des)	Yellow	Provence	2300	1600
83	Chabran	Green/RG	Lyon	2214	1550	98	Petit Nice Passédat	Yellow/RG	Côte d'Azur	2800	1960
11	Cazadehore	Yellow	Seine Valley	1800	1260	80	Poularde (Hostellerie la)	Blue	Rhône Valley	1100	750
57	Alain Chapel	Blue/RG	Lyon	2250	1575	33	Prieuré (Le à Chenevotte)	Blue	Loire	1850	1300
135	Chapelle Saint-Martin (L'A)	Blue	Limoges	1900	1350	104	Saint-Paul (Le)	Green	Provence	1600+	1120+
45	Cheneaudière (Hostellerie la)	Yellow/RG	Lower Rhine	2068	1450	15	Templiers (Auberge des)	Gold/RG	Seine Valley	2616	1800
121	Darocze (France)	Blue	Loire	1300	910	89	Vieux Castillon (Le)	Blue	Provence	1960	1360
58	Donnée (Château de)	Yellow	Loire	2050	1435	130	Vieux Logis (Le)	Blue	Dordogne	1620	1134
19	Esclimont (Château de)	Gold	Seine Valley	2750	1925						
23	Espérance (Hotel de)	Blue	Loire	2500	1750						
18	Espérance (L')	Yellow/RG	Burgundy	3610	2530						
116	France (Hotel de)	Blue/RG	South West	2250	1575						

RG = Red Shield (Relais Gourmands).

* = September-October prices † = November-December prices

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السنة الأولى

Will the education white paper revolutionise schooling, or is it just an attempt to cover up the cracks? Three experts address the issue



Class differences: pupils at computer workstations switch on to new technology, a world apart from the rows of desks at a school in Newcastle upon Tyne almost 80 years ago. Now the government proposes further radical changes

High on hope, low on solutions

John Patten's white paper lives up to its advance publicity as a comprehensive shake-up of the education system. Its central reform is simple and radical. It foreshadows the end of local education authorities (LEAs) as providing bodies for primary and secondary education. In their place is to be a new quango, a leading agency with a network of local offices which will perform the essential functions of planning and administration.

Thus ends more than 100 years of local authority participation in education — and the local political action which has made the schools and colleges both the victims and the beneficiaries of civic and county pride and ambition. No more will local politics reflect arguments about the funding of education or the quality of local schooling.

Stuart Machure, former editor of the Times Educational Supplement, assesses the aims of John Patten's reforms

paper clings to the conviction that opting out raises a school's status. This has probably been well-founded in the early stages. Opting out, and the extra money attached to it, has given some schools a boost. But will it continue to do so when grant-maintained schools become the norm rather than the exception and the bribes cease?

The white paper underlines the paradox that on the one hand the government wants lots of schools for parents to choose from, and on the other it wants to cut out "surplus" places. The message is quite clear that "rationalisation" — the closure and merger of schools — will be a prime responsibility of the agency and that grant-maintained schools, many of which opted out to be saved from closure plans, will not be sacrosanct.

work and it implies central government intervention in detail. But if LEAs are to be made into ciphers it is no use looking to them, and anyway, some outside agency which is not locked into existing staffing and funding is probably needed. Nobody can be very proud of how such schools have been dealt with up to now.

Some of the more important and least clear passages in the white paper are those that deal with what Mr Patten calls "specialisation". The white paper opens the door for schools which try to opt out to include in their application plans for a change of character, for instance to a grammar school intake or an enlargement to take in a sixth form, instead of, as now, having to wait till grant-maintained status has been achieved before seeking a change.

Without directly encouraging or discouraging more grammar schools, the white paper makes it more likely that more will emerge. It also explicitly encourages diversity through other forms of specialisation. There is a lot about schools going in for technology without the full "city technology college" treatment, by seeking businessmen as sponsor governors. Other schools are expected to specialise in music, modern languages, and the performing arts.

A work of vision

What is remarkable, and so laudable, about the white paper is its clarity and vision make the 1988 Education Reform Act look like a timeshare brochure. While Kenneth Baker (the education secretary at the time) was vague as to whether grant-maintained schools were to be the norm or options to ensure choice and to stimulate each local education authority (LEA), John Patten not only foresees but plans the end of council schooling. And about time, too.



Truly accountable councils would have responded years ago to parental demands
Michael Fallon

Predictable squeals from the educational nomenclature should not obscure the appalling failure of the council system. While successive governments took the rap, councils were allowed to provide, control and supervise a monopoly. A demoralised workforce and dilapidated buildings were the result. It is, therefore, fascinating how much of the criticism of the white paper applies to the existing council system. Resources, bureaucracy and accountability are the key issues.

feed and water an army of non-teaching bureaucrats. An expanding grant-maintained sector means more money being spent in more schools. Take bureaucracy. Yes, the funding agency will take over from Mr Patten's over-worked civil servants and administer grant-maintained schools. But even if its regional offices eventually employ 100 staff each, the total would be a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of suds shoes that now roam town halls or intimidate teachers in the classrooms.

The real difference, however, will be in what they do. The funding agency will not run schools — grant-maintained schools are run by heads and governors — nor will it propagate education "policies". Teachers will be free of the tyranny of compulsory advisers, and children will not be subjected to a mathematics "policy" peculiar, say, to Leeds or an English "policy" to Northumberland.

testing: here successive ministers will remain accountable just as they will have to answer for the standards that Her Majesty's new chief inspector will regularly report. Beyond that, the real accountability will be to parents. It is the publication of regular, standardised information in a form that parents can compare that the establishment so fears. With it, parents become customers and schools much more responsive to the local community. The new transparency will reveal the councils' long-hidden secret: the "sink" schools that they constantly forecast already exist.

Go to almost any of our great cities, places such as Birmingham, Newcastle and Coventry, which led the way a century ago, and see the deadly combination of low expectations and low achievement that 12 years of monopoly council schooling provides. Standards will not rise in education, as they have, for example, in housing, in food retailing, in holiday travel, until there is choice, and the improvement in performance that even a modest amount of competition ensures. Until parents in every kind of neighbourhood, on every large estate, have that degree of choice, no amount of extra resources, authorities or directors will make any difference. It is the ending of the council monopoly, and the funding of schools on the basis of the number of pupils they attract, with their freedom to be different, that this white paper now promises. I salute it.

Michael Fallon is a former education minister.

Going nowhere fast

There is a good PR ring about "Choice and Diversity". Unfortunately, to judge by the content, "Selection and Bureaucratic Nightmare" would have been a more appropriate title. Research by Leicester University has shown that a third of grant-maintained schools have introduced selective admissions procedures. The white paper confirms that "choice" for most parents will decline as surplus places are excised. "Diversity" leads inexorably to selection of the most able, while the rest are placed in the nearest sink school.

A white paper was inevitable. The haphazard development of grant-maintained schools, the resulting destabilisation of some local education authorities (LEAs), the admissions chaos in Bromley, Hillingdon and elsewhere, the excesses of the Stratford East governors: a new secretary of state had to do something. And, yes, the secretary will require LEAs and grant-maintained schools to cooperate



'Diversity' leads to selection, the rest are placed in the nearest sink school
Chris Adamson

over admissions and will have the power to replace a minority of governors on former county schools, where deemed appropriate. However, the white paper's proposals will do little to stem the disorder and confusion in the system, while the new funding agency will be a bureaucratic burden for grant-maintained schools. (Come back LEA, all is forgiven?) Pity the parent who lives close to the LEA boundary, whose local school is run by an education association, and in whose area the funding agency has powers: the old-fashioned LEA will appear a

model of bureaucratic clarity. In his launch of the document, John Patten claimed that "this is, above all, a commonsense white paper". If this had been the case, Mr Patten need have examined only two options: wholesale nationalisation of the schools system with a rational system of selection; or a redefinition of the role of the LEA, taking into account the challenges presented by the local management of schools and the need for one local body to have responsibility for education at that level.

Either course would have had the merits of honesty and coherence. However, while the first would have met the opposition of the nation, the second would have offended those Tory gurus whose policies have landed us in the present mess. The secretary of state has therefore opted for a white paper that is the worst of all possible worlds. The package leaves us with greater centralisation of power and most of the same unanswered questions that have been raised since the Education Reform Act hit the statute book — and a few more. Here are three:

● How many schools will become grant-maintained? According to the education department's press release, "the government hopes that in time all schools will become grant-maintained". Yet, after more than three years, fewer than 30 schools have attained that status, more than 25 per cent of schools balloted have voted no to grant-maintained

status and only about .005 per cent of primary schools have started the process. This is hardly a vote of confidence and I see little in the white paper to produce dramatic change. We were told the rush to grant-maintained status would start immediately after the election — it did not. We were then told that schools were only awaiting the white paper. I believe it will be many years before the grant-maintained counter that is said to be on Mr Patten's desk moves into four figures. ● Is there a future for LEAs? Local authorities are, indeed, assured of certain residual functions. I am sure that many LEAs have a long life ahead of them, providing comprehensive education in partnership with schools for their local communities. ● Is there a simple answer to failing schools? John Major's recent pronouncements implied that there was, and that his "open sesame" could release the door of educational achievement. The white paper is more circumspect and, interestingly, in cases where a school has been declared by a report to be "at risk", it is the LEA that is given powers to make improvements. Unfortunately, the policy whereby the secretary can impose an education association for one, or a number of schools would seem to suggest that he is more interested in imposing grant-maintained status on communities who have rejected it than in striving to raise standards. I welcome the government's claim that it wants to raise inner-city educational standards. I would be more persuaded of its sincerity by the introduction of additional resources and a partnership with the education department aimed at helping individual schools raise levels of achievement. ● Chris Adamson is chairman of Islington council's education committee

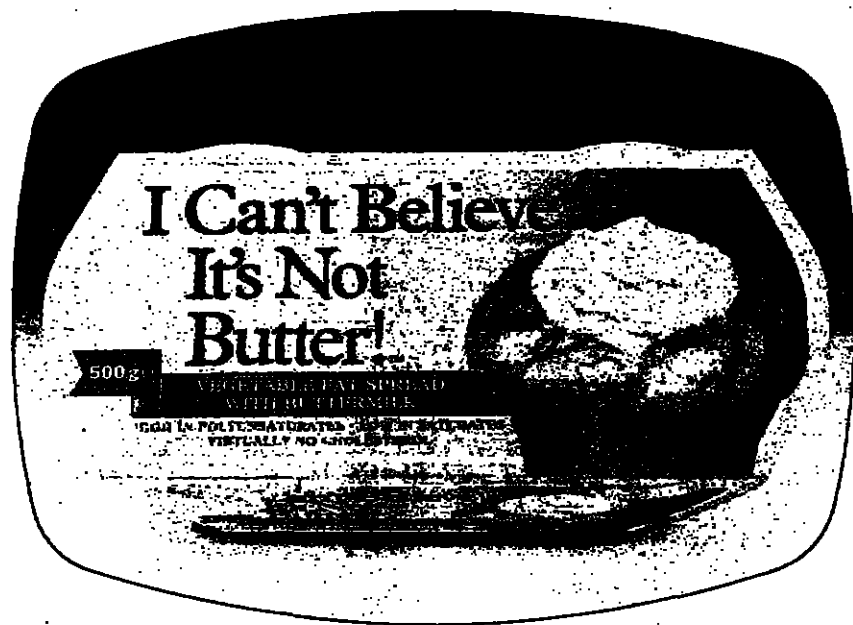
THE MAIN POINTS

- Funding and admissions:** a national funding agency will share responsibility for admissions in areas where more than 10 per cent of pupils have opted out
- Powers of intervention:** "hit squad" management teams will step into faltering schools, which will then opt out without parental ballot
- Opting out:** applications for grant-maintained status to be speeded up and primary schools enabled to opt out in "clusters"; voluntary bodies enabled to found grant-maintained schools
- Selection and specialisation:** schools will be encouraged to specialise in subjects such as technology, languages or business studies, and will be able to apply for a "change of character" when they opt out
- Local education authorities:** delegation of power to schools will increase, but authorities will remain active in areas such as special needs, transport and monitoring attendance and compete to provide services to grant-maintained schools
- Morality and pastoral care:** authorities required to accelerate review of religious education; crackdown on truancy; classroom emphasis on right and wrong

PATTEN'S TIMETABLE

- 1992: April: 20th grant-maintained school established.
- July 28: white paper published.
- September 25: consultation on white paper proposals.
- Autumn: consultation on funding formula for opted-out schools.
- October/November: education bill to be published.
- 1993: May: national curriculum assessment pilot for 11-year-olds; full assessment for 14-year-olds.
- July: Royal Assent expected for Education Act.
- Funding Agency for Schools to be set up.
- First special needs tribunals.
- Independent school inspections to begin.
- School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to be appointed.
- 1994: April: target of 1,500 grant-maintained schools.
- Education associations could take over first schools "at risk".
- National funding for opted-out schools.
- Full national curriculum assessment for 11-year-olds.
- 1995: Target of 4,000 grant-maintained schools.
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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (55406)
6.30 BBC Breakfast News starts with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when there begins news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (84715)
8.30 Olympic Grandstand presented by Steve Rider from Barcelona. Athletics: 8.30 men's 100m; 8.35 women's 200m, first round; 9.20 men's 200m, first round; 10.00 men's 400m; 10.15 men's 1,500m, first round; 11.15 men's 400m hurdles, first round; Hockey: the Great Britain men's team play Australia in their last group match; Badminton: singles and doubles semi-finals. Includes News and weather at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (5242883)
12.55 Regional News and weather (51048154)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (94222) 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (54365588)
1.50 Olympic Grandstand. Steve Rider introduces Diving: the women's springboard final; Table Tennis: women's doubles final and the quarter-finals of the women's singles; Boxing: quarter-final bouts; Tennis: quarter-final action in the women's singles, the men's singles and doubles; Athletics: 5.00 men's 110m hurdles, semi-finals; 5.20 men's 200m, second round; 5.45 women's 200m, second round; 5.50 women's 400m, second round. Plus news of the badminton semi-finals and canoeing repechages (46045661) (continues on BBC2)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (90)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (70). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster



Budding romance? Sandra Sandri, Jesse Birdsall (7.00pm)

7.00 Eldorado. The first of the week's episodes of the sun-kissed soap with, according to the Radio Times, a cast list a remarkable 29 strong. (Ceefax) (5) (7393)
7.30 Olympic Grandstand presented by Desmond Lynam. Athletics: 7.45 the first round of the men's 3,000m steeplechase; 8.10 the first of the women's 10km walk; 8.45 women's 400m hurdles, semi-finals; 9.15 the first of the men's 10,000m. Plus news of the canoeing, yachting, boxing and badminton competitions (89812593)
9.50 Main News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (425116)
10.20 Panorama. A documentary investigation by John Ware into claims that the American courts are stretching justice to the limits when dealing with murder cases, sentencing to death the mentally retarded, the insane, juveniles and, sometimes, the innocent in a bid to placate the 80 per cent of the public who are in favour of capital punishment (634574)
11.00 Olympics Today. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights from day ten of the competition (11959)
12.00 Film: *Chato's Land* (1972) starring Charles Bronson and Jack Palance. Tense western about a vicious 13-strong posse on the trail of Chato, a half-breed who was taunted into killing a sheriff. Chato lures the riders into his own territory and they become fatally aware that they are no match for Chato's cunning. Directed by Michael Winner (574181). Northern Ireland (to 12.30am) Greenlights
1.35 Weather (2371146)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote control, can be used with most video tapes in the VideoPlus+ format for the programme you wish to record. For more details call 0925 121204 (call charged at 48p per minute peak, 36p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus+, VHS Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8LP. VideoPlus+ (TM), PlusCode (TM) and Video Programme are trademarks of Genstar Marketing Ltd.

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Haydn's London Symphony (5044661). Ends at 7.10
8.00 Breakfast News (3847048) 8.15 A Week To Remember (b/w). Pathé newscast from this week 40 years ago (920272)
8.25 The British Motorcycle Grand Prix. Highlights of yesterday's race at Castle Donington (5) (5877319)
9.00 Bravestarr. Animated adventures of the bravest marshal in the galaxy (7590408) 9.25 Why Don't You...? 7 Entertaining Ideas (b/w) (7592393) 9.55 Handylings (b/w) (5) (6106628) 10.15 Last of the adventures (7173399)
10.50 Film: *Dancing Lady* (1933) starring Joan Crawford, Clark Gable, Franchot Tone and, in his screen debut, Fred Astaire. Gypsy backstage romance with a modicum of comedy from the Three Stooges. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (9673860)
12.25 News and weather (95483154) followed by Northern Arts. A portrait of Joe Hutton, a Northumbrian shepherd and pipe-player (43808135) 2.15 In the Garden. Shuts that attract bees and butterflies (4382899)
2.30 The National Estedford of Wales live from Aberystwyth (73629)
3.30 A Small World. Laurence Langford's collection of model ships (5) (6647357) 3.40 A Week To Remember (b/w). See 8.15am (6795425) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (6791609)
4.00 Cartoon (3011116) 4.10 The All New Popeye Show (5) (1241680) 4.35 Top Mates. Episode three of the six-part Australian children's drama (5). (Ceefax) (6892222)
5.00 Newsround. (5792922) 5.10 The Lowdowns Radio Therapy. Life on the wards in Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children (5). (Ceefax) (9839664)
5.35 Neighbours (5). (Ceefax) (5) (282715)
6.00 Olympic Grandstand. Athletics: 6.10 women's 400m semi-finals; 6.30 men's triple jump; 6.35 men's 400m semi-finals; 6.55 men's 800m final; 7.15 men's 1,500m hurdles final (54777)
7.30 Eve and Marilyn. Eve Arnold recalls photographing Marilyn Monroe over a period of ten years (5) (96)
8.00 Antenna: Mind Movies.
● CHOICE: Tonight's "personal and provocative" view of science comes from an American philosopher, David Dennett. His subject is a huge and baffling one: no less than the nature of consciousness. Television is supposed to be more comfortable than books, but Dennett makes a good and entertaining stab at combining the two. His view of consciousness is provocative, rejecting the conventional wisdom passed down from Descartes in favour of what he calls a "multiple drafts model" in which the human brain is likened to a computer. This may sound arcane but Dennett brings it down to earth with the help of science fiction films including *Blade Runner* and *Image*. (Ceefax) (5) (4845)

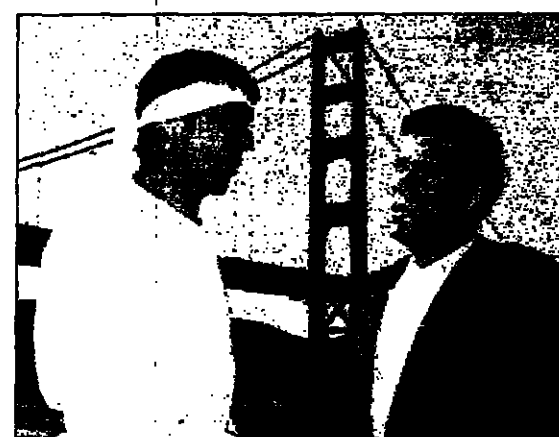


Heading for divorce: Perry King, Chynna Phillips (8.30pm)

8.30 Film: *Roxanne* — the Prize Pulitzer (1988) starring Perry King and Chynna Phillips. Fact-based drama about a fairly tale romance followed by an acrimonious divorce and bitter custody proceedings. Directed by Richard Collar (75852)
10.00 The Real McCoy. Black comedians and music (5) (14425)
10.30 Newsnight with James Cook (781116)
11.15 Siskel and Ebert. The critics agree to bicker over the latest films released in America (817767)
11.35 Small Objects of Desire. Face teeth (5). (Ceefax) (5) (410951)
11.55 Weather (589715)
12.00 Open University: Urban Transport and Harlem (90742). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

6.00 TV-am (8166998)
9.25 Jumble. Cryptic word game presented by Jeff Stevenson. The guests are Keith Chegwin and Gaby Roslin (5) (7597319) 9.55 Thames News (543864)
10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series about a teenager who inherits her alien father's supernatural talents (5) (2553241)
10.25 Wowser. Animation. Last in the series (2563628) 10.55 ITN News headlines (5907777)
11.00 On Today. Animated adventures of Ollie the Ox (5) (3917154) 11.25 Just for the Record. More "best ever" feats from around the world (5) (1605135) 11.30 Thames News (9077970) 11.55 Cartoon Time (5404574) 12.10 Rosie and Jim. Children's puppet series (5) (5731116)
12.30 Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (7317116) 1.05 Thames News (5378608)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (487222) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (486593)
2.15 Thames Help. Assistance available to victims of domestic violence (478574) 2.45 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (9941845)
3.10 ITN News headlines (4186241) 3.15 Thames News headlines (4185512) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large Australian city hospital (6971593)
3.50 Cartoon Time (3418408) 3.55 Scooby Doo (4067932) 4.20 Round the Bend (5) (1234390) 4.45 Clap 'n' Dale — Rescue Rangers (6885932)
5.10 Bloodbustlers. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (4309628)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (415116)
5.55 Thames Help (5) (754883)
6.00 Home and Away (5). (Oracle) (86)
6.30 Thames News (Oracle) (58)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell and Carol Smillie (5951)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (22)
8.00 After Henry. Simon Brett's comedy about three generations of women living in the same household, starting with Mary Scales as the Duke's nurse, Leonard Nimoy and daughter of Joan Sanderson. (Oracle) (5) (1999)
8.30 Film: *Star Trek IV — The Voyage Home* (1986) starring William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelley. A light-hearted piece of science fiction with the starship Enterprise's crew back in 20th-century San Francisco battling with a strange alien force that is trying to destroy the planet. Directed by Leonard Nimoy. (Oracle) (5) (1999)
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (98721) 10.30 Thames News (368854)
10.40 Film: *Star Trek IV — The Voyage Home* continued (707154)
11.25 The Beethoven Broadwood Portofino. At Forde Abbey, Hampshire, Mervyn Tan performs Beethoven's Bagatelles Nos 1-6, Op 126, and Fantasia, Op 77, on the composer's restored fortepiano (12661)
12.20am Entertainment U.K. Weekly "what's on" guide (5) (3690520)
1.20 Sport AM. Action from the Scandinavian Masters golf (7580894)
2.20 Out on a Limb. The first of a two-part mini-series starring Shirley MacLaine as herself in the story of her troubled affair with a married British MP. Also starring Charles Dance (9133707)
5.00 Jazz At The Maitland. Pianist Charlie Byrd recorded at Duke's Place, New Orleans, accompanied by Joe Byrd on bass and Chuck Redd on drums (57100)
5.30 ITN Morning News (59237). Ends at 6.00



Earth's saviours? Leonard Nimoy, William Shatner (8.30pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily (4461280)
9.25 Little Boyer. Animation (5) (7588661)
9.55 Get Smart. Spooky spy series starring Don Adams (5) (9622357)
10.25 Film: *Let's Be Famous* (1939, b/w) starring Jimmy O'Dea and Betty Driver. Eating comedy about an Irish singer who causes chaos on a radio show he thinks has hired him for his vocal talents. Directed by Walter Forde (2374864)
11.55 Pussycat Dances the Gumbo. Animation from America (9074883)
12.00 American Power. In the last of the series Lewis Lapham examines what Americans think of the world in which they no longer act as policemen (5) (93222)
1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining early learning series (5) (48970)
2.00 Film: *The Bad Guy* (1943, b/w) starring Tommy Trinder and James Mason. Drama documentary about the work of the Auxiliary Fire Service in London during the Blitz. Directed by Basil Dearden (392208)
3.40 Islanders (b/w). A contrast of island life with mainland Britain (5) (406067)
4.00 Le Mansais. The second of a two-part documentary about the restoration of the overgrown 14th-century garden of a French manor house (5). (Teletext) (51)
4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game (5) (95)
5.00 Head to Avonlea. Children's drama series, starring Sarah Polley and Madeleine Kahn (5) (2864)
6.00 Streetwise. Drama series about a firm of London bike couriers (5) (28)
6.30 The Wonder Years. American comedy series about growing up in the "Swinging Sixties" (5) (80)
7.00 Channel 4 News and weather (808154)
7.50 Consistent (559668)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (5) (2241)
8.30 Evening Shade. Small-town America comedy starring Burt Reynolds as a former professional footballer now coaching the local high school team (8048)
9.00 Secret History: Death of a Democrat.
● CHOICE: In March 1948 Jan Masaryk, foreign minister of Czechoslovakia, fell to his death from a top story window at the ministry building in Prague. The official verdict of the communist regime which had seized power two weeks earlier was suicide. Family and friends of Masaryk were convinced he had been murdered, perhaps on the orders of Stalin. There are arguments for both theories, though the mystery has remained. This latest attempt to crack the case comes from Anna Maria Masaryk, the widow of the Czechoslovakian, who was Masaryk's great-granddaughter. An earnest young man in a black beret, Kotik does his best to reopen a trail which has gone cold for more than 30 years. He tracks down other relatives, delves into recently opened archives and uses dramatic reconstruction. But the further into the story he goes, the more elusive it becomes. (Teletext) (1845)



Taking a beating: Amber Styles with Brian Hogg (10.00pm)

10.00 Film: *Dream On* (1991).
● CHOICE: A production by Amber, a film-making collective based in the North-east, uses a mixture of realism and fantasy to portray the unhappy lives of three northern women and their attempts to find ways of escape. In each case the cause of the misery is men. One of the women was abused as a child. Another is beaten by her partner and the third endures a loveless marriage in which she takes second place to her husband's tropical fish. The other principal male character is a loan shark. All of this, plus an all-woman team of writers, may suggest that *Dream On* is a standard feminist tract. In fact it is considerably more, thanks to the acuteness of its observation, an attractive leavening of humour and fine, natural performances from Anna Maria Masaryk, the widow of the Czechoslovakian, who was Masaryk's great-granddaughter. (Teletext) (5593)
12.10am The Story of a Community. The second of a two-part documentary about the arrival and settlement of the Bangladeshi community in Britain (3608549)
1.10 Steel Drums. The first of two programmes about calypso music (5) (317278). Ends at 1.25

SATellite

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00am Sky One (11065) 6.30m Mrs Pepperpot (5862628) 6.45m Haystack (5026593) 7.00m The Dik Show (596059) 9.30m The Pyramid Game (61849) 10.00m Let's Be Famous (12154) 10.30m The Bold and the Beautiful (48480) 11.00m The Young and the Restless (47330) 12.00m St Elsewhere (52530) 12.05m E Street (41154) 1.30m General (72864) 2.00m Another World (29377) 3.15m The Brady Bunch (59726) 3.45m The Dick Van Dyke Show (512326) 5.00m City of Life (9131) 5.30m Different Strokes (1406) 6.00m Love at First Sight (8319) 6.30m E Street (2999) 7.00m All (5975) 7.30m Condo (5918) 8.00m An Evening in Byzantium: Final part of the mini series starring Glenn Ford (1613) 10.00m Studs (63715) 10.30m Anything for Money (4913) 11.00m Hill Street Blues (28203) 12.00m Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
News on the hour.
6.00am Sky News (590628) 9.30m Phone-In (52715) 10.00m Dayline (10796) 10.30m Beyond 2000 (58861) 11.30m Japan Business Today (5225498) 11.45m International Business Report (500138) 12.30m Good Morning America (70777) 1.30m Good Morning America (70406) 2.30m Travel Destinations (43721) 3.30m Our World (20999) 4.30m Beyond 2000 (5796) 5.00m Live at Five (73999) 6.30m Newsline (70609) 8.30m Beyond 2000 (58845) 9.00m Newsline (52309) 11.30m ABC News (74195) 12.30am Newsline (74452) 1.30m ABC News (54907) 2.30m Beyond 2000 (54810) 3.30m ABC News (57659) 4.30m Beyond 2000 (94636) 5.30m Newsline (51013)
● SKY MOVIES-
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00am Sky Movies (521183) 10.00m The Blues of Mrs Wilson (1990)

SKY SPORTS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.30am Sky Sports (89088) 7.00m Motor Cycling (58089) 8.00m Stretch (7274) 8.30m European League (37203) 10.30m World Sports (59406) 11.00m Motor World (24406) 11.30m Stretch (23155) 12.00m City Car (50577) 12.05m Sunday League Cricket: Sussex v Hampshire (5809154) 1.00m WWT Wrestling (56509) 1.30m WWT Wrestling (5773) 3.30m Glory Days (72408) 10.00m Netball (53965) 10.30m Netball (53965) 11.00m Netball (53965) 11.30m Netball (53965) 12.00m Netball (53965) 12.30m Netball (53965) 1.00m Netball (53965) 1.30m Netball (53965) 2.00m Netball (53965) 2.30m Netball (53965) 3.00m Netball (53965) 3.30m Netball (53965) 4.00m Netball (53965) 4.30m Netball (53965) 5.00m Netball (53965) 5.30m Netball (53965) 6.00m Netball (53965) 6.30m Netball (53965) 7.00m Netball (53965) 7.30m Netball (53965) 8.00m Netball (53965) 8.30m Netball (53965) 9.00m Netball (53965) 9.30m Netball (53965) 10.00m Netball (53965) 10.30m Netball (53965) 11.00m Netball (53965) 11.30m Netball (53965) 12.00m Netball (53965) 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IN THE NEWS

Pouring oil on troubled waters

In theory, David Simon had 31 years to prepare for the role as chief executive of BP. In practice, he had no time at all.

The ousting of Bob Horton, his predecessor, was one of the most dramatic coups the business world had seen in years. Mr Horton was all powerful — unfashionably but characteristically occupying the chair as well as the role of chief executive. But far from all powerful, which five weeks ago led to his departure.

Mr Simon is charged with clearing up after Mr Horton's 27 months — apocryphally dubbed the reign of terror. He has the task of soothing feathers not so much ruffled as ripped out, and of rebuilding bridges, not so much weakened as demolished.

If Mr Simon is the main beneficiary of Mr Horton's removal, it was Lord Ashburton, better known as Sir John Baring, who was its principal architect. The pair face their first test on Thursday when they unveil what are expected to be unimpressive interim results, and more crucially, the precedent-setting second-quarter dividend, widely expected to be cut — possibly in half.

Only with that hurdle out of the way will this linguist be able to begin



Simon: low profile

bringing the BP super-tanker back on course. His approach is likely to be the antithesis of what went before — conservative (especially in oil price projections), quiet and good natured. To that list, if the previous 31 years are anything to go by, he is likely to seek to add a low profile.

Having lost out once, he needs no second bidding to make the most of the job that at 53 he has waited a career for. Already the company is making the right noises about further cuts in costs and capital expenditure and the disposal of non-core businesses. But then with debts of \$8.5 billion, you would expect it to.

But with much seemingly dependent on achieving disposals to raise \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion this year and next amid a world recession, success cannot be guaranteed — nor can that low profile.

MATTHEW BOND

Low turnover puts pressure on costs

Securities firms face losses as trading slumps

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S securities houses are facing a period of substantial losses after a sustained drop in London Stock Exchange turnover since the general election in April. The sharp fall in share values in recent months has left some large securities houses nursing sizable trading losses on their book positions.

Turnover on the stock market in London on Friday slumped to 378 million shares, about half the amount required by City brokers collectively to cover costs.

Immediately after the election, 1,000 million shares were traded daily. Peaks of almost 800 million shares a day were reached later that month and early in May. Volumes have tailed off since.

Low trading levels reduce opportunities for market-makers to secure dealing profits while agency brokers suffer losses of commission income. With the summer flood of new

issues over, and corporate activity stalled, fee income is also expected to be low.

Meanwhile, costs are under pressure as firms step up efforts to win a larger share of a declining securities industry income. A fresh spiral in salaries, especially among analysts, is under way as those committed to winning or holding sizeable market shares prepare for another assault. After the long re-employment, which reduced staff of exchange member firms from 25,500 in 1988 to 20,000 at the start of 1991, a bounce-back in staffing and costs has been expected.

Swiss Bank Corporation has already decided to merge its derivative and cash operations. Peter Morant, a director of Swiss Bank, said the company had a small market-making arm already but would increase the operation to cover about 85 of the top 100 companies and a further 300 blue chip European com-

panies. He said: "We already have our core team in place. Our decision was made independently of any cyclical consideration."

JP Morgan, the US investment banking group, has also had a presence in London for some time. The firm has been servicing its private portfolio clients and others but is now expanding to attract outside investors around the world.

John Hosken, at JP Morgan, said the company would deploy its existing resources using experts on credit rating to take on the role of analysts. But it was being forced to build up its market-making and sales teams.

BZW, the securities, investment and corporate arm of Barclays Bank, has also been taking on extra staff and strengthening its equities operations. After a two-year absence, it has formed a new food retailing team with Bill Curry and David McCarthy from rival Hoare Govett. Mark Cusack has also joined from Hoare Govett to cover industrial conglomerates, while Geoff Douglas will be joining from Smith New Court to cover smaller companies. Andrew Benson will be joining the chemicals team.

But Bill Smith, head of UK research at BZW, rejects claims that BZW has been running round with an open cheque book. BZW is also strengthening its derivatives team, specialising in futures and options trading. A spokesman said: "No one likes to see low volume figures. But we are hoping things will continue to feed through from the corporate side. We will just have to grit our teeth and operate as economically as possible."

Hoare Govett denies it has been looking to beef-up its equity operation but admits it remains on the lookout for quality staff.

The current low levels of turnover are worrying all securities houses, but Hoare said it was now better placed to resist the slump.

Peter Meinerzhagen, chairman, said: "Obviously, this level of business will not help. As the market continues to fall, you have got to do more business just to stand still. But we never got ourselves involved in programme trades and will not feel the pinch now they have started to dry up."

SEC investigates brokers' methods

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE Securities and Exchange Commission has launched an enquiry into whether Wall Street firms retain stockbrokers who allegedly cheat customers, because they bring in large volumes of business.

Nine brokerage houses are believed to have received SEC requests for information on 12 points, in letters that went out on July 16. Seven have acknowledged receipt of the letters.

The firms include Merrill Lynch, Shearson Lehman, Paine Webber, Prudential Securities, Dean Witter Reynolds, Kidder Peabody and Smith Barney Harris Upham.

This is believed to be the first SEC probe aimed at discovering how broking houses treat small investors. These have flocked to the stock market in the past two years, in search of high returns as fixed-income rates have plunged.

The SEC wants to identify the 50 brokers at each firm who generate the most revenue, the 50 with the largest

number of written customer complaints against them, and the branch offices that generate the most complaints. It also wants to receive details of any internal investigations into alleged abuses in sales practices.

In addition, the SEC seeks information on brokers against whom there have been allegations of "churning", unsuitable recommendations, unauthorised trading or misappropriation of funds and securities.

Firms have six weeks to reply. All those acknowledging receipt of the letters have said they will co-operate.

Merrill Lynch said in a statement: "We are extremely proud of our compliance record, which is due to the fact that we deal quickly and definitively with complaints when they are made."

"Merrill Lynch is responding fully to the SEC's request and believes that regulatory interest in exploring these issues is appropriate and will enhance investor protection."

Protest over ballots at Lloyd's

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A DOZEN dissident Lloyd's names have written to *The Times* to protest at what they claim is an attempt by Lloyd's to influence the ballots on motions debated at last week's extraordinary meeting.

There are five motions. One expresses confidence that the Council of Lloyd's will carry out a proposed reform programme; four amount, in effect, to an expression of no confidence in the council. Ballot papers have been sent to 33,000 active or resigned names and the results are expected late in August.

The votes are seen as a crucial test of support among Lloyd's members for the market's existing management and for the dissident names

movement. The letter, which is signed by two of the best-known rebel names, Tom Benyon of the Society of Names and Alfred Doll-



Coleridge sent letter

Steinberg of the Gooda Walker Action Group, makes several complaints.

It says Lloyd's has refused to allow extra time for overseas names who might be on holiday in August to vote in the ballots; and it points out that the organisers of the extraordinary meeting have been denied access to voters' names and addresses, thus hindering distribution of a letter balloting one sent out by David Coleridge, Lloyd's chairman, last week.

The letter says the members of the action groups represented by the signatories "believe that the council are seeking to influence the ballot".

Letters, page 16

NatWest urges more public spending

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has urged the government to consider increased public spending on housing and infrastructure to counter the effects of the recession.

In its latest economic report, Britain's largest bank gives a warning that "it is now necessary to balance the risk of a short-term increase in spending and in the budget deficit, against the even greater risk of doing absolutely nothing until German interest rates start easing".

NatWest's report is among several gloomy economic forecasts out today. They include a warning by the London Chamber of Commerce that insolvencies among small and medium-sized companies in the region will rise during the next few months because of cash flow difficulties. A report by Oxford Economic

Forecasting, an independent research institute, predicts a 1.1 per cent decline in output this year, which is one of the most pessimistic forecasts for 1992 so far. NatWest also forecasts recession will continue throughout the year, with output declining 0.5 per cent, and subdued growth in 1993.

The general pessimism is, in part, based on the assumption by a growing number of economists that the government will ride out the storm of criticism over economic policy and will not accept a realignment of Europe's exchange rate mechanism. David Kern, NatWest's chief economist, believes ERM membership, at a central rate of DM2.95, will remain the cornerstone of the government's macro-economic policy. He said: "I believe that the pound will move to the narrow ERM band before the end of 1992 and this will enhance credibility." The only boost to the economy could come from fiscal

policy. He acknowledged that "sizeable budget deficits are a serious medium-term problem", but said they were "a legitimate short-term means of counter-acting the recession".

The conclusions of NatWest's report were largely corroborated by the Oxford economists, who claim that leaving the ERM would pose "unacceptable economic and political risks", while devaluation would not enable the government to cut interest rates enough to lead to a recovery.

They OEF report predicts that individuals, after cutting personal debt, would "devote subsequent rises in real incomes to consumption", and the economy would expand about 2 per cent next year.

Despite the relatively optimistic medium-term outlook, the Oxford economists call on the government to boost the housing market through releasing controls on the supply of building land and through tax incentives to help the rental sector.



Net gains: the UK angling market grew 15 per cent last year, Chris Aylett says

The one that got away...

By DEREK HARRIS

A NEW fashion among young professionals to hunt carp, the prime coarse fish that can grow to more than 50 lbs, is one reason why Britain's angling industry, which nets £100 million in annual sales, is seeing continued growth this year, despite the recession.

Farm diversification, fuelled by set-aside grants, has led to a plethora of lake construction as trout fishing has boomed. But the main growth is in using lakes as well as former gravel pits for coarse fishing, especially for carp where selective hunting demands expensive aids such as radar-based fish finders and electronic bite detectors.

Imports of fishing equipment such as rods, reels and lines, last year grew by a quarter in value to £23 million, according to Chris Aylett, president-elect of the British Sports and Allied Industries Federation. He runs Tackle Sales, Britain's biggest fishing tackle distributor, and is chairman of the recently formed government-backed Angling Development Agency.

UK equipment manufacture now runs at nearly £40 million a year in sales, half fuelled by exports. There are more than 50 manufacturers in the UK, from rod makers such as Daiwa in Glasgow — the British arm of the Japanese group — to British Flyreels, based in Cornwall, which is part of Porter Chadburn. One of the great names in fishing, Hardy, now part of Harris and Sheldon, produces rods and reels at Alnwick, Northumberland.

Those new to angling can equip themselves for the sport for less than £50 but enthusiasts will spend thousands of pounds to make sure of their trophies. Long, carbon fibre

poles, much favoured for coarse fishing, usually cost between £1,000 and £3,000.

Last year, the total angling market, including bait, saw growth approaching 15 per cent, Mr Aylett estimates. The first quarter of this year saw imports up 20 per cent by value with UK makers' exports rising 30 per cent.

Mr Aylett said: "The recession is having its effect even on fishing — still the single most popular sport unless you count rambling — so the second quarter may well have seen a

peaking of demand. Probably we shall see the overall UK market up this year by around 5 per cent."

One of the attractions of angling for coarse fish such as carp is that a day ticket on a private fishery costs between £5 and £7 a day compared with £10 to £12 for trout. Trout fishers take their catch away but coarse fish are won on barbed hooks, weighed and photographed before being replaced so fisheries are not faced with constant restocking.

Manders' profit rise boosts bid defence

By MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

MANDERS (Holdings), the paint-maker, yesterday daubed a 66 per cent profit increase across its final defence against the unwelcome £85 million bid from Kalon. Roy Amos, the Manders chairman, unveiled pre-tax profits of £4.06 million for the first half of 1992, compared with £2.44 million a year ago, and said he expected the group to make at least as much in the second half.

The figures were promptly condemned as "very disappointing" by Mike Hennessy, group managing director at Kalon. "After taking out the £1 million contribution from the Windeck acquisition, and adjusting for the £400,000 had debt in the previous year's figure, trading performance has actually got worse," he said.

Shareholders in Manders will receive a 2.6p interim dividend compared with 2p and the board is forecasting a 20 per cent improvement in the total for the year to at least 8.4p. Earnings per share at the interim stage are up by 47 per cent at 7.78p.

The group claims to have experienced organic growth as well as benefiting from the Windeck own-label paints purchase in December 1991. However, no upturn is foreseen.

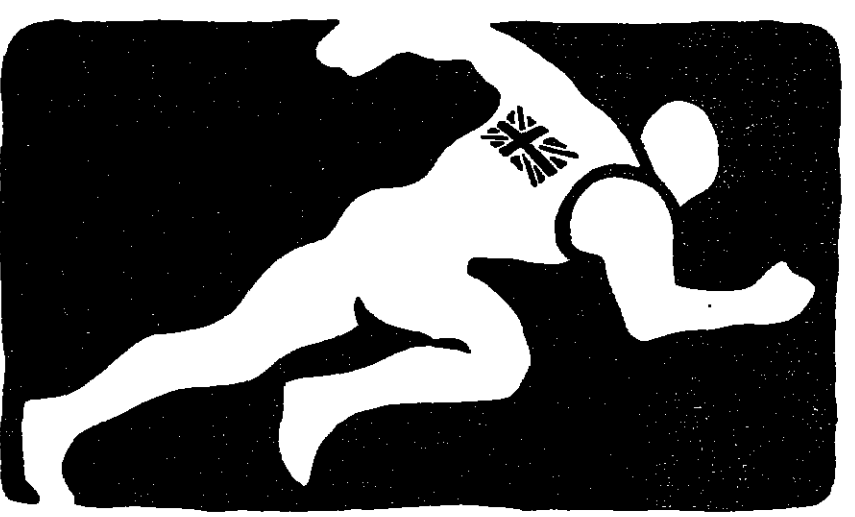
Mr Amos, who continues to describe the Kalon all-share exchange offer as "derisory", said the results "clearly demonstrate the benefits of the strategic investment in the company's businesses".

He said there was a positive cash flow of £3.7 million in the first half.

Mr Amos said the effective multiple being offered for Manders was 12.1 times pro-forma earnings of 19.9p a share, assuming Kalon were to sell, as indicated, Mander Centre, the group's property investment, at last December's valuation. He argues that to match the average 1991 bid premium, Kalon should be offering between 378p and 524p, depending on which sector is used for comparison. Kalon's eight-for-three share bid is currently worth 241p a share.

"The bid is an attempt to acquire Manders on the cheap," says Mr Amos. Kalon is expected to publish its interim results later this week.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9265 (+0.0288)
German mark
2.8406 (-0.0088)
Exchange index
32.3 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1803.8 (+14.7)
FT-SE 100
2399.6 (+22.4)
New York Dow Jones
3393.78 (+108.07)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
15910.28 (+412.49)

WPP debt agreement likely to be approved

By OUR CITY STAFF

MARTIN Sorrell's WPP Group, the world's biggest advertising and marketing combine, with 18,000 employees, appears to have avoided collapsing into receivership. It should emerge from this Wednesday's special meeting with a shareholder agreement on the refinancing of its \$1 billion of debts.

The eleventh-hour reprieve follows a weekend climbdown by Fidelity Investments, America's biggest fund management group. As holder of more than 10 per cent of WPP's preference shares, Fidelity had threatened to vote against the proposals, which require a 75 per cent majority in favour from preference holders.

Defeat for the proposals at Wednesday's meeting would have left no alternative but administrative receivership, according to the banks that put together the package, announced on July 1.

Despite continuing to insist that the terms on offer are unfair, Fidelity declared at the weekend that it had agreed to vote in favour of all the motions.

In a short statement, it said that although the restructuring plans were "not as fair to WPP preference shareholders as they should be", as a long-term investor it "would not wish to jeopardise the long-term future of the company".

Mr Sorrell said yesterday that he was delighted with Fidelity's decision, adding that the refinancing would give the group "a stable platform for the future". He admitted that the climate continued to be difficult, but pointed out that the extra liquidity and reduction in debt "would help us deal with these conditions".

Receivership would have had a disastrous effect on morale at the business, and could have prompted key members of staff to leave.

In coming to its decision,

Fidelity said it had taken account of the wishes of "the other shareholders, the interests of investors in Fidelity funds, the position of the company relative to its bankers, and the risk to WPP Group".

However, Fidelity is believed to have been unable to drum up sufficient support for a tough stance. It is also thought to have come under some pressure from WPP's 28 bankers.

One concession that has been wrung from the bankers is a promise that their co-ordinating committee will attempt to secure boardroom representation for preference shareholders.

The real winner on Wednesday, however, will be Mr Sorrell, the former Saatchi & Saatchi finance director, who created WPP through the debt-financed acquisition of J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy and Mather, the leading American advertising agencies. His position as chief executive should now be secure while Gordon Stevens, a former director of Unilever, will take over as chairman after the meeting.

Under the terms of the proposals, the lenders will subscribe for £140 million of convertible stock, which will be used to reduce WPP's borrowings, a move expected almost to halve its interest payments to about £27 million. The banks will emerge with some 52 per cent of the equity.

Rupert Faure Walker, a director of Samuel Montagu, financial adviser to WPP, said proxy support from other shareholders to date had been "overwhelming".

He said that if the ordinary shares got back to 134p, preference holders would get their money back. "It may take three or four years, but everyone connected with the company is determined that we will get there."



Narrow escape: the refinancing should remove the threat to Martin Sorrell

Airbus success hurts rivals

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AIRBUS Industrie's attack on the order books of America's two largest aeroplane makers is beginning to inflict wounds on their profits and share prices.

Net earnings from McDonnell Douglas halved in the second three months of this year and are down a third over the first six months. The shares have fallen 54 per cent in the past 12 months.

Boeing's second-quarter profits were flat, it has given a warning that second-half profits will be below the first because of the lack of orders in commercial jets and a rise in development costs. Analysts say its shares, at \$40, are at their lowest price earnings ratio for 20 years.

Airbus passed McDonnell

as the world's second-largest jet maker three years ago. Its latest coup came last month when it won a \$3 billion order for 100 aircraft from United Airlines, which had bought from Boeing for 14 years. In March, Airbus beat McDonnell Douglas for a nine-plane deal with Delta Airlines.

The American plane makers continue to accuse Airbus of unfair competition, claiming British Aerospace, Aerospaciale de France, Deutsche Aerospace and Casa of Spain — partners in the European consortium — are awash with state cash and can cut prices below commercial rates.

A US government committee estimated the consortium had been given \$10 billion over the past 20 years.

Prompted by politicians anxious to keep jobs at Boeing's Seattle base and at McDonnell's California factories, the US government has launched an investigation into the United order to see whether any illegal subsidies were used in breach of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

While Airbus's total share of the market is slightly ahead of McDonnell's 20 per cent, McDonnell's share of the new orders last year fell to 8 per cent while those for Airbus rose to almost 30 per cent.

Two weeks ago, McDonnell announced it would be cutting 5,000 jobs, or 15 per cent of its workforce. At Boeing, 8,000 jobs are expected to go this year.

Plaxton secures two-year pay freeze

By MICHAEL TATE CITY EDITOR

THE 700-strong workforce at Plaxton, the Scarborough coach and bus builder, has accepted a two-year pay freeze and given up rights to private health insurance in a cost-cutting bid designed to restore the business to profitability and retain its independence.

Plaxton is part of the Henlys Group, which is fighting a £26.5 million takeover bid from T Cowie, the rival car dealership group. Recent losses of the 75-year-old coachbuilding business have been at the centre of much of the argument to date.

Cowie has severely criticised the performance of Plaxton, which was mainly responsible for Henlys' £6.8 million loss last year. However, Cowie denies that it has plans to sell or close the business should it win control of Henlys.

Plaxton's workers met on Friday to agree management proposals aimed at reducing costs by "well into seven figures," according to Henlys' chief executive Robert Wood. Apart from accepting a pay freeze, and the scrapping of private health insurance, they also voted to give up their current productivity bonus scheme, under which they could earn an extra £50 a week, in favour of new, tougher arrangements. Twenty white collar jobs were also cut, which alone will save some £400,000 a year.

Mr Wood said: "We explained that only by making these sacrifices could costs be reduced to the level needed to win new business in a market that has more than halved over the past two years."

He added that Neil Beresford, the main board director responsible for the coachbuilding division, had taken a 10 per cent pay cut, and that the rest of the Henlys directors, including himself, would receive no bonuses until performance improved.

He said Plaxton has won orders for some 370 coaches and buses over the past few weeks worth £17 million, giving a "virtually full" order book for 1992, and a "substantial" opening order position for 1993.

Major takes high risk road in quest for El Dorado

The prime minister and the Chancellor are taking the political gamble of their lives. The glittering prize for the economy is a 1980s performance in the 1990s — respectable growth, low inflation, a balanced current account and low interest rates. The cost is near-term intense political discomfort. The risk is the dreadful economic and political consequences if they are wrong.

In 1961-5, Britain produced 2.7 per cent annual growth; 3.5 per cent inflation; a current account broadly in balance; and 6 per cent 20-year gilt yields.

Similar data for 1994-8 would delight Messrs Major and Lamont. Growth might be only 2.3 per cent (still better than the 1980s), but inflation could easily be below 3 per cent. The current account might be in modest deficit and gilt yields nearer 7 than 6 per cent. But it should enable the Tories to win their fifth election. If this is Downing Street's vision, it would explain, first, why the government is sticking with the ERM. In terms of short-term pain for long-term gain, the pain seems excessive.

Messrs Major and Lamont may have looked across the Atlantic and concluded that leaving the ERM and cutting rates would achieve little. America now enjoys its lowest interest rates for three decades and yet the upswing remains sluggish.

Alan Greenspan, Fed chief, has argued that lower interest rates had prevented a severe recession in America but at the cost of slowing the adjustment of personal and corporate balance sheets. In Britain, the personal savings ratio has risen from 4 to 11 per cent, in America from 4 to 5 per cent. America thus faces slow growth for years. Thus, the greater the short-run pain, the sooner the long-run gain and so Britain may

as well stay in the ERM. The second puzzle is why gilts have been so firm against French bonds. If the prize is long-term inflation below 3 per cent, with French inflation stuck around 3 per cent, it is no surprise the gilt market sniffs yields below OATs.

What are the risks to the Major/Lamont dream?

First, the Bundesbank must cut official rates in the short term and bond yields must fall to 6 per cent or below in the long term. Both are possible. We think a fourth-quarter Lombard rate cut remains on the cards. Six per cent bond yields were achieved in the 1980s but will depend upon bond supply in the 1990s.

Second, the current account constraint may overwhelm all else, partly due to an overvalued pound. This year and next, sizeable deficits look likely, even if weak demand means imports falter in the next few months.

Sterling's overvaluation may in fact be dollar undervaluation. We think lower German interest rates in due course will allow European currencies to depreciate against the dollar bloc.

Third, the supply side may no longer be able to deliver. Broadly, this is a tension between the supply side destruction in the first half of the 1980s and that built up in the investment boom in the second half. If the pessimists are right, we will have a sustained high level of unemployment and/or higher inflation.

Messrs Major and Lamont are seeking El Dorado in a golden economic performance for the mid-1990s. Their chances of success are good, with sunning gilt returns on a long view. But then successive expeditions have failed to find El Dorado.

DICK HOWARD
Julius Baer
Investments

BUSINESS LETTERS

A vote of no confidence at Lloyd's

From the Society of Names Sir, The Walker report confirmed, inter alia, that Lloyd's was guilty of incompetence in the way it handles Names' affairs. Now Lloyd's has been forced into holding a ballot which is, in effect, to decide whether the membership has confidence in the Council. Many of our members believe that Council members who have presided over the shambles that has brought many of our members to ruin should resign at once.

Now, our members believe that the Council are seeking to influence the ballot. Lloyd's are refusing to allow six weeks for the vote in the hope that overseas members may be away on holiday in August and so unable to vote in time. Lloyd's has substantial resources and most importantly, the names and addresses of the voters. They have deployed these by sending out three documents to members urging them to vote for the Council.

Although we have raised sufficient postage money we are denied by Lloyd's access to these names and addresses and thus we are unable to send out a second message to voters to balance the proceedings. Lloyd's is also refusing to declare the split between the

results of working and non-working Names. That working Names are riven with conflicts of interest can be seen in the results between 1983-90, when working Names' average return on a 400,000 line was 58,000 per annum whilst the average for all external Names was a loss of 11,200. Overseas Names averaged losses of 32,500 per year, which proves that the further you lived from Lime Street and the insiders the worse the result.

To expect Lloyd's workers to vote against the status quo would be like expecting nuns to vote for Christmas. So if the Council were to win a vote of confidence with a one-sided ballot on the back of the turkeys alone, then the taste of democracy will be a touch bitter.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BENYON, KIM MAHON, SIR ARTHUR GOODSON, RICHARD LADSKY, RICHARD MICKLETHWAIT, ROSS MCMANUS, ALFRED DOLLSTEINBERG, PHILIP DINKEL, SIR RICHARD COOPER, JACK HARVEY, JOHN REW, CLIVE FRANCIS, DAVID HAGAN, The Society of Names, The Old Rectory, Aidsack, Buckingham.

Time for change

From Mr M.E. Gaisford Sir, A pensioner of our fund who retired in 1970 on a pension of £100 per month has to date "lost" well over £30,000 through under-indexation of his pension. Although the fund now has a surplus of £354 million, Inland Revenue rules prevent any compensation to such pensioners. Instead, this sur-

plus is being used to provide the company and current employees with four years of contribution holidays, followed by 17 years of reduced contributions.

Is it not time that the rules were changed? Yours faithfully, M.E. Gaisford, Amberley, Southern Lane, Sudbrooke, Lincoln.

THE TIMES BUSINESSES FOR SALE

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Abbey National may lift payout despite setback

TODAY

ABBEY National, the building society turned bank, begins a week that sees the interim results season move into full swing. Peter Birch, the chairman, is expected to announce that increased mortgage debt provisions have taken their toll on first-half profits. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £270 million, against 308 million last time. Market forecasts range from £262 million to £325 million.

P&D is looking for earnings per share of 13.8p (against 15.7p), but an increase in the interim dividend from 3.5p to 3.75p. Bad debt provisions are expected to more than double to £130 million (£58 million), although they will still only represent a small percentage of advances on an annualised basis.

Interims: Abbey National, BSA Group, Glaxo, Gwent & Co, Lillieshall, Transport Development Group, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Finisat, Benson Group, Trenchwood.

TOMORROW

Lord Alexander of Weordon, National Westminster Bank's chairman, is likely to report a big improvement on last year, thanks to a £200 million turnaround in America, cost-cutting here and tariff increases. P&D expects the first-half pre-tax profits to jump from £101 million to £250 million, although the overall figure will be held back by high domestic bad debts. Market profit forecasts range from £110 million to £300 million. A maintained dividend of 6.1p is predicted.

Interims: Admiral, Edinburgh Oil & Gas, Law Debenture Corp, National Westminster Bank, Pace Systems, TI Group, Yorkshire Chemicals. Finalists: Meritown High Income Trust, Radiant Metal Finishing. Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions (June); UK reserves (July).

WEDNESDAY

GKN, the engineering group, is expected to benefit from additional work from Japanese transplants, the 5 per cent increase in American car



Birch: debt provisions

sales in the first half of this year and greater stability in overall European demand, according to County NatWest. County forecasts a 26 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £60 million. The interim dividend should be maintained at 6p.

Standard Chartered, the international banking group, is expected to report half-time pre-tax profits of £93 million, against £83 million, according to Panmure Gordon. The strength of Standard's core Asia-Pacific region, especially Hong Kong, should ensure that profits are ahead, despite a £50 million provision relating to the Bombay stock market scandal.

Interims: British Alcan Aluminium, Chiffland Group, GKN, Smith & Nephew, Standard Chartered, Wickes, Finalists: Beales Hunter, Resort Hotels, Williamson Tea Holdings, Zotters Group.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (May); advance energy statistics (June); cyclical indicators (July).

THURSDAY

Goldman Sachs has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £170 million for Barclays, against £378 million. This is towards the higher end of market forecasts. A maintained interim dividend of

9.15p is predicted. Martin Evans, at Hoare Govett, expects BOC Group, the industrial gases and healthcare combine, to announce third-quarter pre-tax profits of £91.3 million compared with £84.3 million.

The second-quarter results at British Petroleum are awaited with anxiety, because of the expected heavy provisions for cost cutting and possible write-offs and disposals. County NatWest expects BP's replacement cost net income, which excludes stock gains or losses, to slide 75 per cent, from £13 million to £60 million, with forecasts ranging from losses of £40 million to a profit of £90 million.

BP's historic cost net income, which is inclusive of stock gains and losses, is expected to ease from £243 million to £240 million. However, the market will be most concerned with the dividend. County expects a 40 per cent cut, from 4.2p to 2.5p a share.

Second-quarter replacement cost net income at Shell Transport & Trading is forecast at between £520 million and £670 million, against £532 million last time.

Interims: Anglo & Overseas Trust, Barclays Bank, BOC Group (third quarter), British Petroleum (second quarter), Kleinwort Benson Group, Philips Electronics, Rotork, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Shell Transport & Trading, Simon Engineering, Speakman, TH City of London Trust.

Economic statistics: Details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

FRIDAY

Second-quarter pre-tax profits at Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and consumer products group, should climb from £448 million to £484 million, according to Credit Lyonnais Laing. Others are looking for more, some for up to £500 million.

Interims: Fairway Group, SKF Group, Unilever, Finalists: Alliance Resources, SEET, Wholesale Findings.

Economic statistics: Balance of payments, advance annual estimates (1991); insolvency statistics (second quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Windsor goes back to basics

THE recent history of Windsor, the insurance broker, vividly illustrates what went wrong with corporate Britain in the late 1980s. A new management team has spent the past year unwinding ill-conceived acquisitions and diversifications that almost brought the company down.

Windsor remained afloat because of its core broking activities, particularly in sports-related business, around which Michael Eagles, chief executive, and Charles Earle, managing director, have established a more cohesive company. Non-core businesses, which included property as well as domestic and commercial mortgage broking, were sold, accounting for most of last year's large exceptional and extraordinary charges of £2.4 million. Windsor now concentrates on developing its insurance brokerage.

It already claims market leadership in professional football, representing the newly formed Premier League as well as the Football League, and is moving into other sports. Products such as contingency insurance are generating new business and tighter cost and cash controls have been implemented.

Interim figures for the period to the end of March showed a recovery from losses of £373,000 before tax to pre-tax profits of £102,000 and an underlying growth in business of 8 per cent. Key features were a reduction in the expense ratio from 115 per cent to 108 per cent and a 14 per cent increase in interest income despite lower rates.

There is a seasonal bias

towards the second half and Greig Middleton, Windsor's brokers, expect profits of £400,000 before tax in the full year, compared with losses of £1.2 million previously. Earnings of 0.8p a share would support a nominal dividend of 0.5p. Profits are expected to rise to £800,000 next year on revenue from new business.

The current price of 18p stands at 22 times this year's prospective earnings and appears to be well up with events. But the multiple falls to approximately half this on figures for the following year. The market may feel that the group's chequered history justifies some caution but this attitude may change as future results draw attention away from the problems of the past.

MARTIN BARROW

BRITISH FUNDS

THE government securities market faces a crucial test this week amid mounting speculation that the Bank of England will announce the next round of bond auctions.

Brokers expect the bank to announce further tranches of existing stock with a total value of between £2 billion and £3 billion. The bank has increased the pace of such

auctions since the government announced plans to raise the public sector borrowing requirement to £28 billion in the Budget.

There was, however, some speculation on Friday that the bank may issue new stock. Institutions have shown a healthy appetite for gilts but prices were being dragged lower across the board last

week because of depressed European bond markets and worries about the future of the exchange-rate mechanism.

But there has been little genuine selling pressure and investors will not be disappointed to see the market lose ground in the run-up to any pricing decision the Bank of England may make.

Stock	Outstanding (millions)	Page	Yield %	Div \$	Stock	Outstanding (millions)	Page	Yield %	Div \$	Stock	Outstanding (millions)	Page	Yield %	Div \$
SHORTS (under 5 years)														
1,380	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	970	Trans 12/10/1994	118%	-	11.80	4.78			
1,370	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	5,527	Trans 9/15/2001	100%	-	9.48	9.32			
1,360	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 10/10/2001	100%	-	9.58	12.52			
1,350	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 10/10/2001	100%	-	9.58	12.52			
1,340	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	3,211	Conv 9/15/2001	100%	-	9.32	9.34			
1,330	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	111%	-	10.00	9.68			
1,320	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Conv 9/15/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,310	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,300	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,290	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,280	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,270	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,260	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,250	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,240	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,230	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,220	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,210	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,200	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,190	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,180	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,170	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,160	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,150	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,140	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,130	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,120	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,110	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,100	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,090	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,080	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,070	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,060	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,050	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,040	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,030	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,020	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,010	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
1,000	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
990	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
980	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
970	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
960	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
950	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
940	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
930	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
920	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
910	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
900	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
890	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
880	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
870	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
860	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
850	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
840	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
830	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
820	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
810	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
800	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
790	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
780	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
770	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
760	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
750	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
740	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
730	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
720	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
710	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
700	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
690	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
680	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
670	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
660	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
650	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
640	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
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430	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
420	Each 12/10/1994	100%	-	12.22	...	1,000	Trans 12/10/2001	100%	-	9.31	9.35			
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COMMENT

Cadbury's critics may yet be sorry

Proposals made by the Cadbury committee for making company managements more accountable to boards and shareholders were seen in some quarters as a last chance to avoid further statutory regulation in the wake of a depressingly large, if varied, flotilla of corporate scandals. If that is really the status of report, the omens are not good.

The main proposals look likely to come into effect. The London Stock Exchange has readily agreed to its allotted role and the auditors, with some reservation, seem prepared to play their part. The infrastructure of Cadbury's new code of boardroom arrangements should therefore slot smoothly into place. While the agents are being co-operative, however, the two principal groups at the centre of the arguments are, at best, apathetic. Indeed, they seem still to be dancing the same old routines that characterised previous pantomimes on the City versus industry or long-termism versus short-termism.

The CBI and the Institute of Directors civil against what they see as a move towards two-tier boards, with non-executives acting as spies in the boardroom, rather than being, as company chairmen want, "one of us". Institutional investors want non-executives to act as an independent proxy for their values, leaving the big fund managers free of any commitment of time or involvement. They like the code but want someone else to enforce it. If top management does not believe in the new code and big investors do not want to take the initiative in enforcing it, then the form is likely to lack substance.

This may not matter in the short term. Something has been done: certainly enough to avoid messy intervention by a government anxious to avoid interfering unnecessarily in capital markets. Many may think that was really the purpose of the Cadbury exercise. The scandals that prompted it have sent a shock through the system and all but the most irredeemable old-style entrepreneurs are likely to pay lip-service to the latest City shibboleths. When the chastened habits of recession give way to money-making boom, the lessons may be gradually forgotten. That is when the reforms will be tested. If they fail, those who carp today may regret it.

City doldrums

August in the City looks like being even more lethargic and inactive than usual. The summer spate of new issues has dried up completely. The economy appears dead in the water. The flow of company results is nearing low point of the year. Only the occasional spectacular profits downgrade can be expected to provide some focus for analysts and share traders from the end of this week. But unless there is a substantial increase in trading volumes when fund managers return from their summer breaks, the securities industry looks to be headed for another of its regular periods of soul searching over profitability.

In the bright and hopeful days of April, when the stock market was enjoying a post-election boomlet, expectations were high. Stock Exchange member firms had restored the imbalance of cost and income that culminated in an aggregate loss of £353 million in 1990 and turned in a collective profit of £286 million in 1991. Since then the rosy future, based on economic recovery and renewed investor confidence under more years of Tory rule, has receded far into the distance. Friday's level of market turnover is roughly half what is reckoned to be necessary to cover costs, let alone making a worthwhile return on the £3.4 billion or so currently invested in the industry. Precious little can be expected from other sources of income, such as dealing profit and corporate fees, so long as fund managers and businessmen remain deeply uncertain about the economy.

Friendly invaders give UK motor manufacturing a shot in the arm

Japanese car giants promise to transform the industry's prospects, reports Colin Narbrough

It was Adam Smith who observed in *The Wealth of Nations* that the quality of labour can vary greatly. There is one sort of labour which adds to the value of the subject upon which it is bestowed: there is another which has no such effect," wrote the guru of today's Conservative reformers.

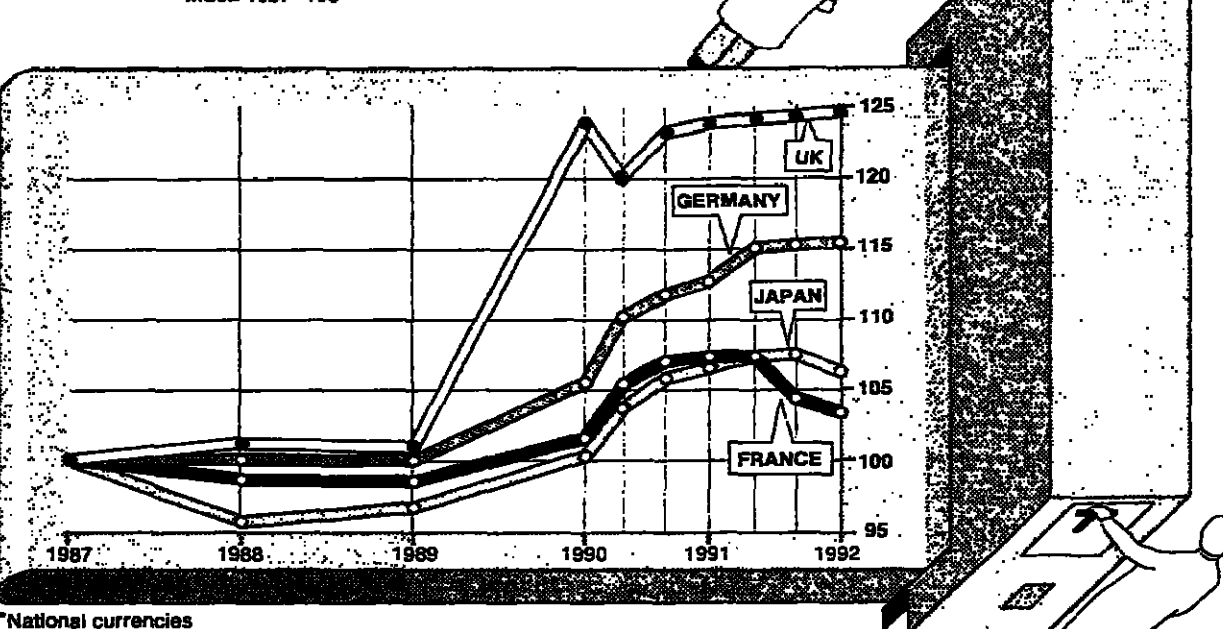
The question for Britain, as persistent gloom casts doubt on the "economic miracle" of the eighties, is whether there has been significant progress in increasing competitiveness. Have two severe recessions in little more than a decade left industry too lean to benefit from the still elusive recovery? Have deregulation and the effective dismantling of the trade unions transformed the British industrial worker into a paragon of efficiency? And, crucially, has the painful process of squeezing out inflation brought truly competitive pay and unit costs in a nation fond of over-rewarding itself?

With John Major's commitment to keeping the pound at a central rate of DM 2.95 within the exchange-rate mechanism, the devaluation route to lower real wages and improved competitiveness is shut off. That leaves only the hard road of sustained productivity growth. In the long run, above-average productivity growth should ensure a competitive edge.

Without doubt, Britain made great gains in productivity in manufacturing between 1979 and 1989, when the Thatcher boom came to an end. Hourly labour productivity rose by an average of 4.7 per cent a year, a dramatic improvement from the 1.7 per cent between 1973 and 1979. Yet the eighties did not represent a step-change in productivity compared with the period before the mid-seventies, when there was a general slowing of growth.

Between 1960 and 1973, hourly productivity rose by an average of 4.2 per cent. More than half of the productivity increase in the eighties reflected job cuts. Output increased only 12.2 per cent. Profits and dividends were up, but manufacturing investment for most of the decade was weak in

LONG PATH BACK FOR BRITAIN
Index of unit labour costs in manufacturing
Index 1987=100



National currencies

comparison with that of our competitors. Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, concluded in a recent study that our competitiveness, measured in terms of unit labour costs, weakened greatly in the eighties, in stark contrast to the improving trend of the two previous decades. Had the earlier trend continued, British industry's cost competitiveness would have been more than 70 per cent higher.

It was the loss of competitiveness that, in Mr Martin's words, prompted a "renaissance in manufacturing built on rationalisation rather than expansion". Economic slow-down and high unemployment followed.

So what are the chances of Britain catching up the best in the nineties? Lord Young of Grafham, the former trade secretary, drew attention in the early eighties to the need to make Britain the location for foreign industry. He converted a largely xenophobic government to see the logic of Japanese plants on British soil.

The idea was to replace underperforming indigenous firms with state-of-the-art factories that would raise manufacturing to new heights and enable goods from Britain to compete seriously in Europe.

The government succeeded, in making Britain more attractive to inward investors. Last year's drop in foreign investment, reflecting the recession, was the first in a decade. The

UK remains, however, the favourite destination for investment in Europe by Japanese and American companies. It accounts for almost 40 per cent of all investment from those countries since the war. Political stability, compliant unions and one of the lowest marginal tax regimes in the world, as well as access to the Community, have en-

The Nissan plant in Sunderland has reached productivity levels matching those of Japanese and American companies. It accounts for almost 40 per cent of all investment from those countries since the war. Political stability, compliant unions and one of the lowest marginal tax regimes in the world, as well as access to the Community, have en-

The deceleration in the motor industry's unit labour costs

In Britain, the Japanese plants have a huge advantage over German producers, though volume will enable the Germans to compete

hanced Britain's appeal. While many of the triumphs of policy trumpeted during the eighties now take on the appearance of error, the transformation of the car industry was an undeniable success for the inward investment strategy. It has saved a moribund industry. The Japanese carmakers, Nissan, Toyota and Honda, have come to Britain and the impact has been breathtaking.

is part of a wider trend in British manufacturing that augurs well for future competitiveness.

The Confederation of British Industry's July survey of industrial trends showed that unit costs in manufacturing have grown more slowly in the past four months than at any time since the surveys started in 1958. The motor industry was among the few sectors to

displacement by Japanese factories in Britain are narrowing our trade gap in cars.

In Britain, relatively low wage costs, labour deregulation and sites well away from traditional carmaking towns have given Japanese plants a huge advantage over producers in Germany, although sheer volume will enable the German producers to compete. France has forced unit wage costs down to competitive levels, but its strong unions and hostile government stance vis à vis Japan have not endeared it to the Japanese.

On the domestic front too, the transplant factories pose a threat to other producers. Japanese plants are pure producers, unburdened by head office functions or research and development costs.

Dr Garry Rees, of Cardiff Business School, points out that Ford and Vauxhall plants in Britain can now compete with car and component plants elsewhere in Europe, thanks to falling unit labour costs. But failure to match the Japanese transplants with highly flexible work practices and design efficiency leaves the American multinationals, and Rover, at a disadvantage.

Dr Rees's "Cardiff Index" of unit labour costs, base 100, puts Ford at 108, Peugeot and VW at 110, Rover at 118. Nissan registers a mere 88.

Carmakers in Britain, under the goad of Japanese competition, are winning the battle of unit labour costs. Kumar Bhattacharya, professor of manufacturing systems at Warwick University, urges indigenous firms that want to survive Japanese competition to address the next problem and start paying fixed costs. For too long, he argues, British industry has suffered from management "fuzziness". All direct costs of adding value, including decision-makers and all staff jobs, have to be reduced as a share of revenue. Japanese firms have about half the fixed costs of their rivals. This ought to be the next battleground for British industry.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The great escape

The first week of August is not the time to find a banker in Paris, as most of the French are on holiday for the entire month. What, though, of French bankers in London? Will they also be joining *le grand départ*? According to José de Naurois, executive director of Banque Paribas in London, most French people in London would normally choose to escape for all of August but find it difficult to get the full month off in this country. "It's not quite accepted," he says. "One has to set an example and nationality is not a sufficient ground to do things which are considered a bit too comfortable and cushy by others." Typical of his compatriots, therefore, de Naurois is joining his family in St Jean-de-Luz on the Basque coast for most of August but flying back to London for a week midway to maintain respectability among London colleagues. Denis Antoine, Paribas' London chief executive, by contrast, will take only two weeks, having taken up his post in June. Also stuck in London for part of August will be Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Attali is "typically French", he office says, and will be travelling in France with his children. His vacation will be limited to two weeks, however, because of pressure of work.

Pearl stays clean
SPONSORING international athletics is becoming a hazardous affair, as Pearl Assurance



"We decided to miss out K."

discovered last week after its name was unhappily linked with Jason Livingston, the disgraced sprinter. Pearl's was the name on Livingston's vest in photographs splashed across national newspapers. Mazda and Adidas suffered the same problem when Livingston's hero, Ben Johnson, was similarly disgraced but in Pearl's case, the linking of the two names seems particularly unfair. Pearl does not sponsor Livingston personally but has spent £4 million funding a programme of international athletics in which the athlete ran, like other contestants, under Pearl's banner. In addition, for two years, Pearl has funded the "stay clean" anti-drugs initiative in association with the British Amateur Athletics Board. Ken McKay, Pearl's publicity director, says philosophically: "It's certainly not the publicity we expect to get from sponsoring athletes, but I suppose you get the downside as well as the upside." Pearl will continue to support athletes and to fight

against drugs, he adds, "but we are all very sad that Jason Livingston has gone down this way."

Back to basics

THE new double act of Rocco Forte and Bob Payton, of Chicago Pizza Pie Factory fame, kicked off next month when the two will reopen The Criterion in Piccadilly Circus as an Italian-American diner. Novelties such as fried spaghetti are promised but parent should, on the whole, expect a no-frills service from anti-cover charge campaigner Payton. In his company newspaper, Payton tells customers that cover charges are a "great scam to run up the price of your meal" and suggests that they ask the waiter to remove charged-for extras they do not want. Payton says he has done this "countless times" himself. "I've been on a diet for two-and-a-half months so I don't eat bread and butter, so why should I pay for it?" he says. As for the flowers: "You can't eat the atmosphere in a restaurant," Payton says. "We won't have flowers, so people won't have to pay for things they can't eat."

Equity pays

THE days of milk and honey are back—at least for US equity salesmen in the City—according to Jim Furlong of Furlong Associates, the headhunting firm Furlong started in May this year. Furlong, 37, was once reputed to be the highest paid US equities sales manager in London, earning more than \$1 million a year as head of US sales at County NatWest. Now he specialises in headhunting US equity

sales people and says the Wall Street boom has created an "explosion" in demand in London as American firms seek to widen European distribution. "There is a lot of competitive pressure to bid up for the best talent and the market is really buzzing," he says. "The 1987 crash scared everybody to death and people were afraid to move. Some firms used this to manage their compensation downwards. Now the fundamentals have changed and pay has increased dramatically in the last 12 months." Furlong has handled four key moves since May and says that for the stars of the industry "pay packages of \$500,000 are feasible".

Peace in Powys

AS PEACE returns to Powys in Wales, after the departure of New Age travellers, one person who will be getting a little extra financial help to repair any damage is Brian Roberts, a farmer. Roberts has just won a competition organised by Laurendian Fund Managers for readers of *What Investment?* after he selected the top ten performing shares in the FT-SE 100 over the past few months. Laurendian contacted him last week and invited him to pick up his prize, only to be told that Roberts was unwilling to leave his farm to attend the awards ceremony. Several of Roberts' flock of sheep had allegedly been killed and he says that the farm has suffered thousands of pounds worth of damage, but his £500 winnings, which he will now be able to collect, should help a little.

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. This is the daily dividend figure. If it matches your own calculation, you are correct. Please note that the dividend is calculated on a share of the daily price movement. If you own a share of the daily price movement, you will receive a dividend. Please note that the dividend is calculated on a share of the daily price movement. If you own a share of the daily price movement, you will receive a dividend.

No	Category	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Bryan	Building, Rds	
2	Morris Ashby	Industrial	
3	Norden Pac	Food	
4	Pyler	Food	
5	Robinson	Food	
6	Brown Shipley	Bank, Disc	
7	ADT	Industrial	
8	HR Land	Property	
9	Midland	Bank, Disc	
10	GU'S	Drugs, Sps	
11	Laid	Industrial	
12	Sherwood	Drugs, Sps	
13	Lon Int	Industrial	
14	Slack	Industrial	
15	RMCC	Building, Rds	
16	Chada	Chem, Pst	
17	School	Industrial	
18	Magnetic M	Electrical	
19	El Data Pte	Electrical	
20	Amec	Building, Rds	
21	Manders	Building, Rds	
22	City Of Lon	Paper, Print	
23	Fisons	Industrial	
24	Ocean Group	Transport	
25	Landal	Industrial	
26	Thames	Industrial	
27	Falvey Group	Industrial	
28	Ranger	Chem, Pst	
29	Southem	Industrial	
30	Hickling Pmt	Food	
31	Onover Abnd	Leisure	
32	Morgan Cde	Industrial	
33	Am New Z	Bank, Disc	
34	WPP	Paper, Print	
35	Nat West	Bank, Disc	
36	Br Airways	Transport	
37	Utd Bleum	Food	
38	Jardine Math	Industrial	
39	Castry-Schw	Food	
40	Transport Dev	Transport	
41	Bluebird Top	Industrial	
42	Security Serv	Industrial	
43	Leads	Food	
44	Unitech	Electrical	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Platinum prize, which this week stands at £8,000, is Mrs Penelope Neat, of Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mtd cap (millions) Price (p) Div % Yld % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on July 27. Dealings and August 7. Settlement day August 10. Forward margins are based on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mtd cap (millions) Company Price (p) Div % Yld % P/E

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No limit to earning potential

Christie's path will be strewn with gold

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



LINFORD Christie probably did not see his early professional life as an assistant cashier at Wandsworth Co-Op and, subsequently, as a clerical assistant with the Inland Revenue as training for his athletics, but all that working with figures should prove useful now. In the words yesterday of John Walker, the former Olympic 1,500 metres champion and present-day broadcaster: "There is no limit to his earning potential now."

Though Christie may have become the oldest of all Olympic 100-metres champions, at 32 he is not yet halfway towards the normal age of retirement. But the golden handshake is coming. His race appearance fees will be increased from about \$15,000 to \$25,000; he will receive a gold medal bonus of some \$50,000 from Puma, his sponsor; and, when he negotiates his next annual retainer, it should be well in excess of the \$120,000 that Puma are understood to be paying at present.

Furthermore, Christie's commercial value to interests outside the sport should make his income soar way beyond the estimated \$500,000 a year he has been earning hitherto. It will be up to Fatima Whitbread, the former javelin world champion, to make the best of Christie's new status.

While Andy Norman, Britain's promotions officer, arranges Christie's race appearance fees, Whitbread runs Chafford Hundred AC. When the club was launched two years ago, it was done so as a running club second but primarily, as Whitbread said, "to feather our nests".

One of the first decisions will be whether to race Carl Lewis, the world record-holder and Christie's predecessor as Olympic champion. Lewis failed to qualify for the 100

metres here but Christie will have to live with suggestions that he may not have won had Lewis been in the field. Television would pay handsomely for the contest but Christie would be wise to avoid such a match this year: should he lose, it would take the edge off his brilliant Olympic achievement and reduce his earning power.

When Lewis met Ben Johnson in Lille last year, in their first race since the 1988 Olympics, Lewis was paid \$250,000 and Johnson \$110,000. Johnson's notoriety precipitated an inflationary figure and something in the region of a \$100,000-match is probably what Christie versus Lewis would be worth.

As a yardstick for Christie, the \$1 million which Lewis is said to be receiving for his advertising campaign on behalf of Panasonic is worth noting. As long ago as 1976, Bruce Jenner made \$6 million out of becoming Olympic decathlon champion.

How much longer Christie will continue is a question on which even Christie prefers not to put a definitive answer. "How long is a piece of string," he said. "As long as your legs hold up you can continue and achieve great things. I will be around until I am 34 or 35 and I am going to give you guys something more to write about." Pietro Mennea and Don Quarrie ran to within two per cent of their best at the age of 35.

Before coming here, Christie said he "wouldn't be surprised if I don't do the world championships next year"; and that may prove his best option. In which case, if he did not train with the purpose he has for the Olympics, he might be better rewarded by generating all his energies into defending his Commonwealth and European titles in 1994.

But all the while he feels he can beat ten seconds he is sure to carry on. He was the only finalist under ten seconds on Saturday though he was only the third fastest out of the blocks.

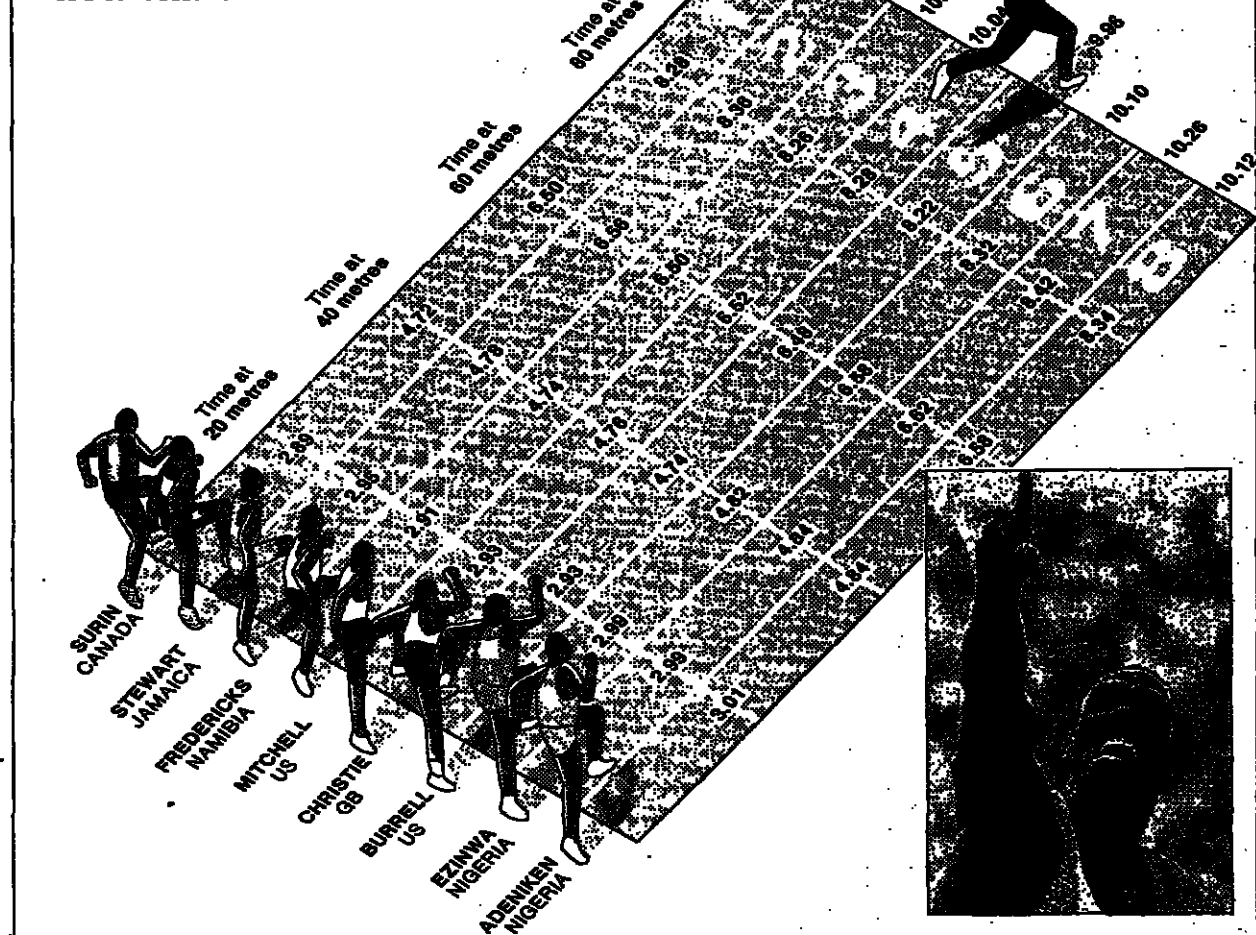
Today he returns to the track for the first round of the 200 metres. Whether he wins a medal or not, a hero's welcome is assured. How long ago it must seem that he was stuck in feline on a bucket-shop air ticket, upset that he was having to wait for a flight after competing.

When he complained, Norman told him: "Who do you think you are? When you put burns on seats tell me what flights you want to travel on." Now Christie can travel any way he chooses.



Golden vision: Christie (left) beats the third-placed Mitchell in the 100 metres final

HOW CHRISTIE WON THE GOLD



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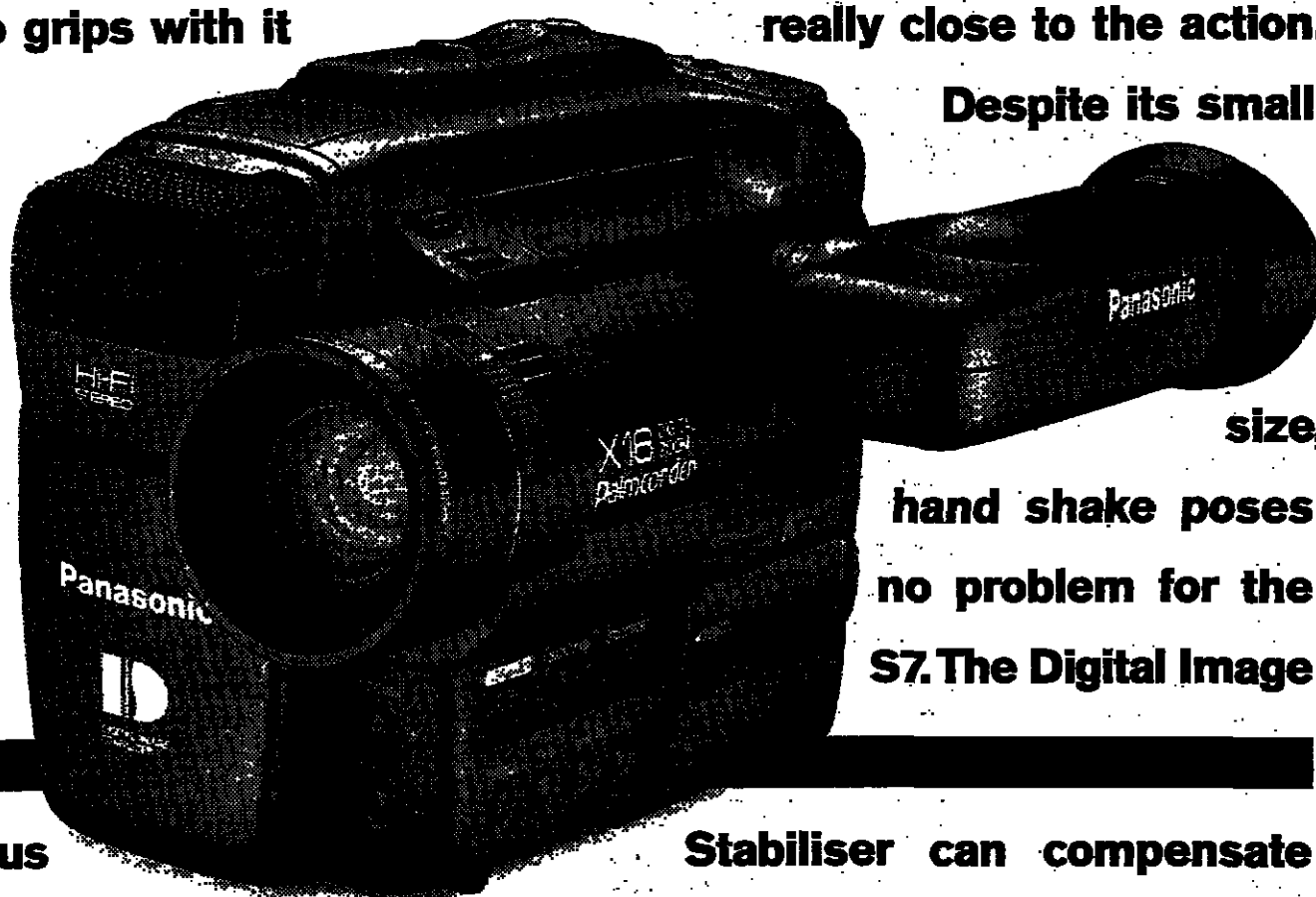
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operate it – no more precarious balancing acts.

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سازمان ورزشی

Form points to Simmering's strong claim for nursery

WILLIE Carson will be doubly keen to win the Mansfield Brewery Nursery on Hy Wilma at Nottingham this evening, as he bred this filly whom Ron Hodges bought back after she had won a seller at Windsor at fortnight ago.

However, in this instance I much prefer the Geoff Wragg-trained Simmering, a winner on the track in April when she was ridden by Richard Hills, who partners her again today.

Hills was also on Simmering last month when, after an eight-week break, she finished second to Sharp Prince in a valuable nursery at Lingfield.

Sharp Prince, who had won his two previous races, has since scored again at a higher level in Bordeaux.

In addition, Mr Martini and King Paris, who finished third and fourth respectively at Lingfield, went on to finish first and second in the reverse

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

order at Newmarket, where Marlene, the impressive winner of another nursery at Goodwood on Saturday, was only third.

While other winning form is boosted by Pizza Connection and Palacegate Prince, nothing matches Simmering who rates a nap.

Red Rosein, who won the Tote Nottingham Stewards' Cup on the corresponding occasion last year, heads the weights for the same handicap there this evening, having failed to sparkle in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last Tuesday.

But one horse who did shine at Goodwood, albeit in defeat, was Petracio who was beaten

only a short head and a head by Paddy Chalk and Five-sevenfive in that driving finish for the Trundle Stakes on Saturday.

Liam Codd's decision to bring Petracio again out so soon must be respected and he is my selection as he is still on a handy mark.

Paul Cole's successful Whatcombe stable can land a first-and-last race double with Clear Look (5.45) and Desert Peace (8.15).

Clear Look was backed to make a winning debut at Salisbury three weeks ago as if defeat was out of the question, but she only managed third place.

However, with that race under her belt, she should be capable of living up to her good reputation at home.

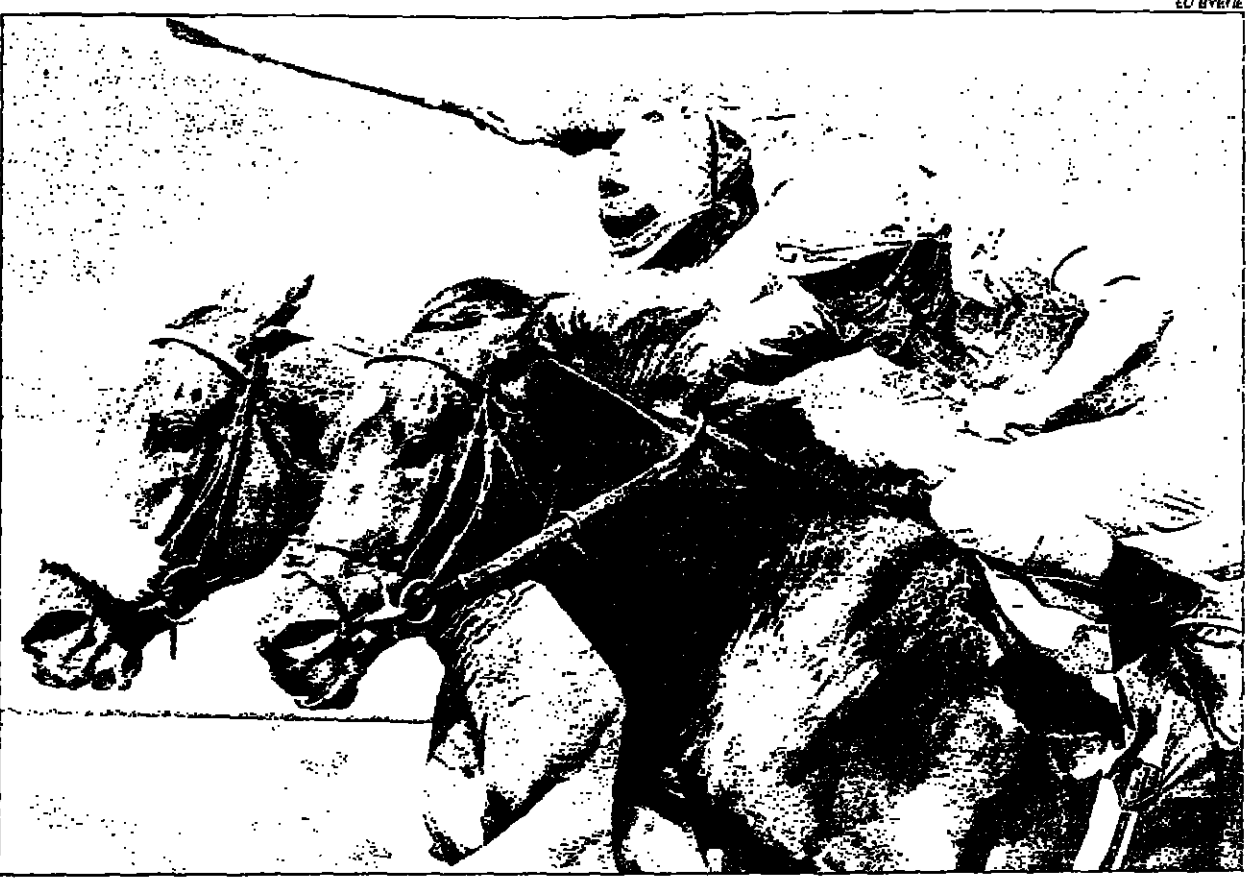
Desert Peace, my selection for the Tyrex Maiden Stakes, is nothing if not consistent and

I believe he is capable of breaking the ice in this company.

Newmarket trainer James Fanshawe is expecting a big run from Kanvass in the Armstrong Memorial Challenge Cup, the day's most valuable race, at Ripon.

While conceding that he is dropping this lightly-raced three-year-old in at the deep end against the likes of Tell No Lies and last year's winner Corn Lily, Fanshawe clearly believes that Kanvass is capable of making the grade following his five-length victory over ten furlongs on this same track at fortnight ago.

Newmarket trainers look set to enjoy a profitable time on the Yorkshire track with William Jarvis fanning his chances of landing a first-and-last race double with Lord Olivier (2.30) and Briggs Lad (5.30).



Close encounter: Knock Knock, noseband, edges out Pharty Story at Goodwood on Saturday

Ruby Tiger eyes York after completing Nassau double

By MICHAEL SEELY

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Goodwood

Going: good to firm (firm in places).
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Weakened Essex attack bears the brunt

Salim scintillates as Pakistanis chase tour bonus

By Richard Streeton

CHELMSFORD (second day of three): Essex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 62 runs ahead of the Pakistanis

SALIM Malik, who led the Essex batting last year, responded with an unbeaten 153 not out for the Pakistanis yesterday after being warmly applauded all the way to the wicket. Salim both dominated and enchanted as the touring team entertained a large crowd with a punishing display.

Salim reached his hundred between lunch and tea before his third fifty followed from 33 balls. He finished with two sixes and 21 fours in a stay of two-and-three-quarter hours. With Waugh touring with the Australians next summer, Salim must be a strong candidate to return to the county. Under the regulations, Salim, having played for Essex previously, would have to be given a two-year contract, though Essex seem unlikely to make any decision until more is known about Foster's future fitness.

Essex were left 20 overs to bat after the Pakistanis declared and Wasim Akram, in his second over, brought one back to bowl Gooch. It was an

encouraging start for the Pakistanis as they strive for what will be their eighth win against a county and bring them a £50,000 jackpot from Tetley Bitter.

As Salim unfurled his strokes, there was little encouragement for a weakened Essex attack from a bland pitch and a lightning fast outfield. Essex were without Foster and Pringle, who might have benefited from the heavy cloud cover and humidity.

Everybody took punishment but Andrew persevered gamely. There was little in the pitch for Chiles or Such but the ball is expected to turn today.

Rollins, the England Under-19 wicketkeeper, made an impressive debut at this level and did not have to wait long for his initial success. In Andrew's second over, Ramiz Raja went back and then rolled a catch low to his right.

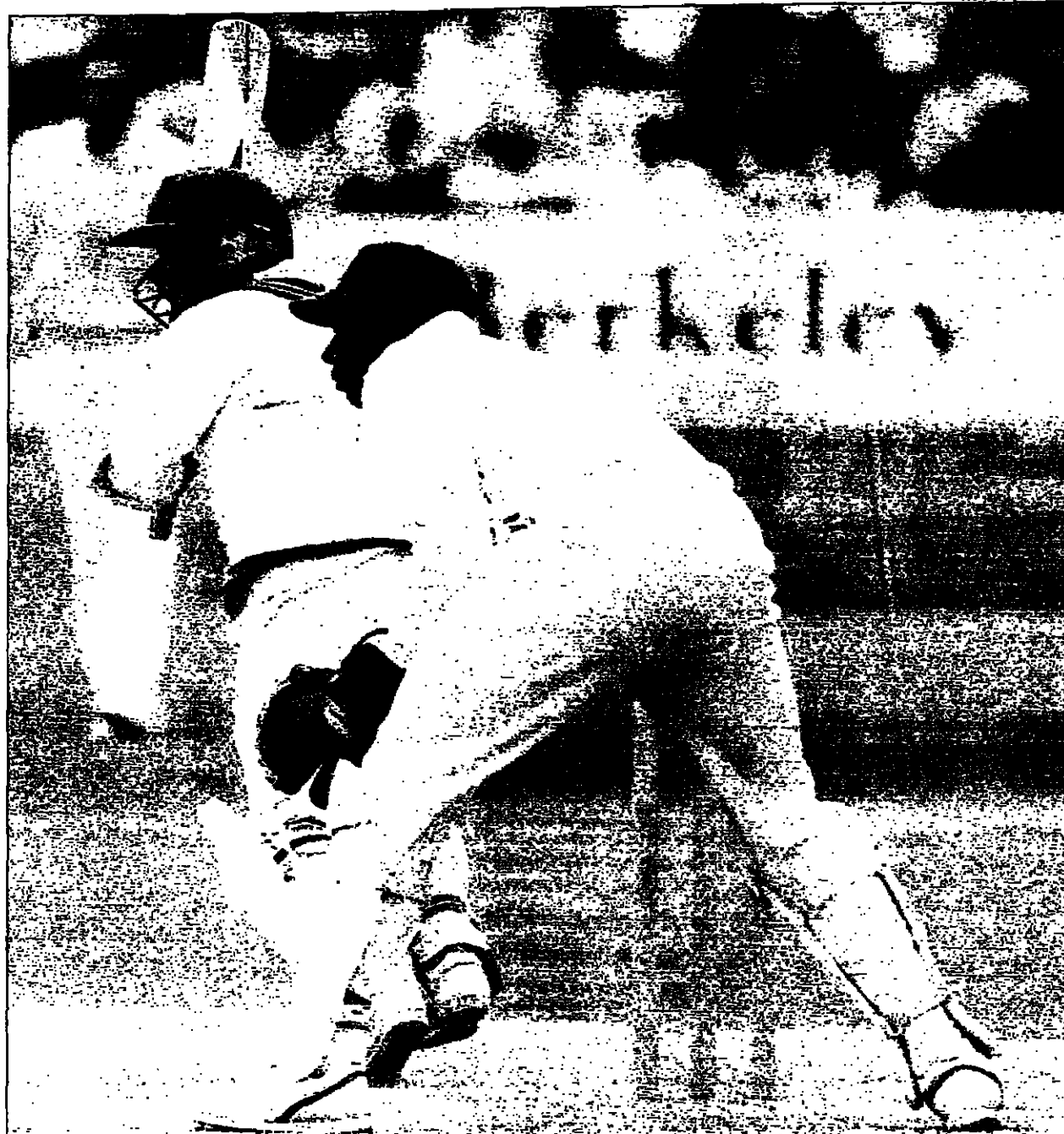
Shoaib Mohammad looked full of confidence until he was leg-before to Andrew as he tried to turn a ball to mid-wicket. Shoaib, who is expected to replace Intezam-ul-Haq for the fifth Test match, pulled anything short with time to spare but most of his eight fours were textbook strokes through the covers.

Javed Miandad, frisky but always orthodox, was in touch from the start. Two straight sixes, from the fifth and sixth balls of Chiles's penultimate over before lunch, were magnificent strokes. Mujtaba, though, playing across the line, was bowled by Ilott's next ball at the other end.

Afterwards, as a stand between Javed and Salim developed, they vied with each other, defensible stroke for defensible stroke. Both drove with exquisite timing, especially Salim, and also late cut in delicate fashion. Only when Javed occasionally pulled were there hints of violence rather than artistry.

Javed fell to a remarkable catch by Hussain at first slip when the stand was worth 133 in 26 overs. Hussain dived to parry a snick drive with his right hand and then twisted round to hold the rebound with his left. Javed batted two-and-a-half hours for 91, with two sixes and 11 fours.

Salim completed his hundred in the last over before tea, steering Chiles to third man for his fifteenth four. Shahid had both Zahid Fazal and Wasim held at deep mid-wicket in consecutive overs as the declaration loomed.



On his toes: Shoaib clips the ball away yesterday on his way to a half-century against Essex at Chelmsford

One over and 30 runs short of record

By Ivo Tennant

THE highest score in the Sunday League for Refuge Assurance League as it then was) was made two years ago at South, when Somerset took 360 for three off Glamorgan. There were times yesterday when it seemed that record would be surpassed at Durham University, although not, surprisingly enough, by Durham and their great hitters. Their opponents, Surrey, were within 30 runs of that, having not had a full complement of 40 overs in their innings.

That they did not gain their last over — and, who knows, smite six sixes off it — was perhaps owing to the number of times the ball had to be retrieved from beyond the boundary. At North, Jimmy Cook and Graham Rose had made the bulk of Somerset's runs in a partnership of 223 that remains a record for the third wicket. Yesterday, more unlikely names were prominent.

Darren Ricknell made 125 from 116 balls with a six and 14 fours, an innings given much support by Alistair Brown striking 75. For anyone imagining that Durham had a weakened attack in the field, nothing could have been further from the truth, even though Geoff Cook was required to make a further comeback from retirement.

Hughes was treated disdainfully, having 72 taken off his eight overs (he did return two wickets) and McEwan was struck for 57 from a mere six. And yes, Botham was playing: his five overs went for 39. Not surprisingly, Durham could not match this when they batted although Botham did at least make considerable amends with a half-century before he was run out.

There were weightier matters still at the top of the Sunday League table. Hampshire restricted Middlesex, carrying a remarkable record of 12 victories out of 12, to 181 for seven from 40 overs. In other words, for once, another win could not be taken as an inevitability. Haynes made 77 and Keith Brown 47. Surprisingly, it was not Marshall who restricted the leaders' scoring but the less waspish pace of Connor and Ayling. A half-century by Middleton enabled Hampshire to keep up with the asking rate.

Dominant raise for Sol

Tavaré casts aside cavalier attitude and secures a draw

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
TAUNTON (final day of three): Somerset (7pts) drew with Sussex (8)



Tavaré: criticised

CHRIS Tavaré has suffered some criticism this season for costly, cavalier declarations. He must have taken it to heart. Yesterday, the Somerset captain squeezed the life out of a promising final day by setting Sussex a daunting target and then directing his side as if he was only interested in a victory if it was presented to him by the rashness of the opposition.

Sussex were asked to score 279 in 52 overs. It was a high

asking rate and they were without Neil Lennham through yet another of his perennial finger injuries. Tavaré knew all this and yet posted sweepers around the boundary from the eighth over of the innings and allowed his one spin bowler a mere five overs before bringing him back with the game already dead.

To their credit, Sussex had shown willing but when Wells and Speight, Saturday's centurions, were out either side of the last hour being called, and still Tavaré did not employ a single attacking fielder, they justifiably abandoned the pursuit.

Throughout the day, the better cricket was played by Sussex. Scorning the cynical contrivance of gaining a last-day declaration through jokers bowlers, they attempted to bowl Somerset out for a second time and it looked, for some while, as if they would succeed.

If Ian Salisbury was dismayed by his absence from the England party, he camouflaged it with his customary broad grin and by bowling unchanged from the old pavilion end. His 18 overs before lunch cost only 28 runs yet contained every variation possible, including a decidedly

sharp quicker ball which took out Harden's off stump.

Ed Giddins, tall with a high action and a natural inswing, accounted for Townsend and Tavaré, the latter caught by Speight, running back from square-leg, after making his second half-century of the game. By lunch, Somerset had extended their overnight lead of 149 by only 86 and the usually forthright Rose had spent 15 overs scoring 13.

He raised the tempo after lunch only after being struck on the left hand by Stephenson, a blow which was later x-rayed to reveal a chipped bone. Rose will not play for

three weeks, in which time he can fondly recall the two sixes he drove in an over from Salisbury, if not the attempted repeat which landed in the hands of Giddins at long-off.

Stephenson removed Turner, whose brief claim on the wicketkeeping job will end when Burns is recalled tomorrow. Sussex could not dislodge a stubborn ball, however, and when Tavaré finally declared, Somerset had added 129 in 51 overs before asking Sussex to score 150 more in one extra over.

Even at almost a run a ball, it was not impossible on this easy-paced pitch. Indeed,

while Smith was at the crease, runs looked cheap and the howl of disgust when he carved a Mollender long hop to cover was the heartfelt cry of a man who had missed out.

Hall kept pecking away in his effective style, adding 44 with Remy and 42 with Wells. The wicket of Wells was the key and it came in bizarre style, Hayhurst fingerflicking a straight drive from Hall onto the non-striker's stumps to run out Wells as he backed up. Speight was out trying to force the pace but Tavaré remained indifferent and, when the shutters came up, so did the stumps.

Leicestershire feel loss of Millns

THERE are marked similarities between Leicestershire and Warwickshire, similarities accentuated by their match at Edgbaston that will have an important bearing on the championship table (Ivo Tennant writes). Each county has an over-reliance on a hostile and willing fast bowler. Each, commendably enough, has achieved more than could have been imagined from the sum of their talent.

Last year Warwickshire were runners-up to Essex, a placing that Leicestershire might well achieve this season. That Warwickshire are likely to win today owes something to their opponents being without their aforementioned fast bowler (Millns) as well as to their own cricket, which has

been that of a superior side. Leicestershire are lacking Wells, their trusty seamer whom Jack Birkenshaw shrewdly signed from Kent, as well as Millns, and it has shown. Following Twose's double-century, it was Warwickshire's quicker bowlers, Donald, Small and Munton, who bowled them out for 169, ensuring that they followed on. Other than a half-century by Potter, there was a sorry collapse by the Britannic county of the month for July and fellow NatWest semi-finalists. Leicestershire will do well to avoid defeat.

Lower down the table, there is the small matter of the oldest county fixture. For Leicestershire this has been a season of injuries and loss of form that has in turn led to loss of confidence. Their new captain, Fairbrother, has been not the least afflicted, having had serious hamstring trouble. His century off Yorkshire on Saturday was his first since taking over from Hughes and, for that matter, his first for a year.

The crowds are not what they were in the Roses match, and have not been for some while. But it remains a prestigious event, one suffused with pride. Yorkshire's bold declaration, 99 runs behind, has given them hope of victory today, not that Fairbrother is likely to be at all generous with his mathematics. To lose to Yorkshire in your first season as Leicestershire's captain must be a fate worse than having a hamstring injury.

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Yorks v Lancs

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss): Lancashire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by four runs

LANCASHIRE
G Power c Byles b Gough 28
M A Atherton c Gough b Carrick 46
G Lloyd (lb) b Poles 5
N J Smeeth not out 102
N H Fairbrother not out 64
Extras (lb 1, w 7) 18
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 284
M Watson, W K Hogg, D Austin, J Faton, P J Delfino and P J W Alford did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-62, 3-110
BOWLING: Hogg 8-0-43-0; Carrick 8-0-56-2; Gough 8-0-53-1; Poles 8-0-44-1; Carrick 8-0-54-1.
YORKSHIRE
M D Moon b Watkinson 24
S A Kellie c Hogg b Delfino 11
P J Bailey c Hogg b Faton 10
S R Tendulkar not out 107
D Byles c Faton b Delfino 26
C White b Delfino 6
C S Poles not out 9
P J James not out 11
Extras (lb 13, w 1) 14
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 280
P J Hogg, D Gough and P Carrick did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-43, 3-219, 4-231, 5-238, 6-240
BOWLING: Hogg 8-0-39-0; Delfino 8-0-53-1; Watkinson 8-0-41-0; Faton 8-0-58-1.
Umpires: J W Holder and R A White

Notts v Leics

TRENT BRIDGE (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by five runs

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
J J Whittaker c Barnham b Cairns 22
N E Briers b Cairns 21
M J Gidley c Barnham b Cairns 22
J D Carr c Smith b Ayling 6
J R Brown c Ayling b Turner 47
P W Westwood c Symonds b Marshall 17
J E Embury not out 17
N F Williams not out 4
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 1) 3
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 181
D W Headley and A R C Fraser did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-78, 3-83, 4-86, 5-146, 6-217, 7-230.
BOWLING: M P Bicknell 8-0-48-1; Faton 8-0-45-0; Symonds 8-0-37-1; Robinson 7-0-46-1; Belling 8-0-48-3.
Umpires: D O Osler and M J Kitchen.

SUNDAY TABLE

P W L T NR Pts
Middlesex (11) 12 12 1 0 0 48
Essex (9) 13 10 3 0 0 40
Surrey (8) 14 8 0 0 0 32
Lancashire (8) 14 8 0 0 0 32
Warwickshire (8) 14 7 5 1 1 30
Northants (8) 13 7 0 0 0 28
Hampshire (17) 12 6 0 0 0 24
Kent (10) 12 6 0 0 0 24
Durham (7) 13 6 0 0 0 24
Sussex (12) 12 6 0 0 0 24
Gloucestershire (12) 12 6 0 0 0 24
Derbyshire (12) 12 6 0 0 0 24
Nottinghamshire (16) 13 6 0 0 0 24
Leicestershire (16) 13 6 0 0 0 24
Lancashire (14) 12 11 0 0 0 48
1991 positions in brackets

Derbs v Warwicks

LEAK (Warwickshire won toss): Derbyshire (4pts) beat Warwickshire by eight wickets

WARWICKSHIRE
A J Miles c Robinson b Mortenson 14
R G Tice c Robinson b Mortenson 17
T A Lloyd c Barnes b Cook 50
A J Miles b Cook 10
A J Miles b Cook 10
T L Parnham c Adams b Malcolm 10
M A Smith c Adams b Malcolm 21
G C Small c Brown b Barnes 21
G Walsh not out 8
P C L. Hollway c Cook b Bishop 0
T A Munton c Cook b Bishop 0
Extras (lb 1, lb 4, w 12, nb 2) 19
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 219
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 219
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-108, 3-129, 4-145, 5-151, 6-185, 7-189, 8-204
BOWLING: Mortenson 8-0-30-1; Bishop 8-0-39-2; Malcolm 8-0-47-2; Adams 8-0-40-0; Cook 8-0-39-2; Barnes 8-0-32-2
Umpires: G I Burgess and N T Pines.

Derbs v Warwicks

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BOWLING: Mortenson 8-0-30-1; Bishop 8-0-39-2; Malcolm 8-0-47-2; Adams 8-0-40-0; Cook 8-0-39-2; Barnes 8-0-32-2
Umpires: G I Burgess and N T Pines.

SATURDAY'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Glamorgan v Kent

SWANSEA (second day of three): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Kent by 99 runs

GLAMORGAN
S P James c Marsh b Davis 31
H Morris c Hooper b Davis 31
D P Hamp c Hooper b Igglesden 39
M A Evans c Marsh b Igglesden 39
A P C. Jones c Marsh b Igglesden 39
R C P. Jones c Marsh b Igglesden 39
Extras (lb 13, w 1, nb 1) 24
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 354
Score after 100 overs: 357-5
S P James, S R Barnes and D J Foster did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-119, 3-185, 4-216, 5-216, 6-278, 7-354
BOWLING: Igglesden 20-0-82-2; Elson 9-13-0; Elson 19-0-75-2; Davis 38-10-9-3; Hooper 23-6-48-0; Fleming 5-1-15-0
Umpires: J W Holder and R A White

Durham v Surrey

DURHAM UNIVERSITY (second day of three): Durham (4pts) beat Surrey by 189 runs

DURHAM UNIVERSITY
T A Ward c Marsh b Cook 48
M R Barnes c James b Foster 42
M R Barnes c James b Foster 42
M R Barnes c James b Foster 42
M R Barnes c James b Foster 42
M R Barnes c James b Foster 42
Extras (lb 4, lb 4, nb 3) 30
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 300
D J Foster, A P Igglesden and R M Elson did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-128, 3-185, 4-282, 5-282, 6-297
BOWLING: Ward 14-1-78-2; Foster 11-17-51; Barnes 14-1-37-0; Dale 5-1-20-0; Cook 12-0-7-0
Umpires: J W Holder and R A White

Warwicks v Leics

EDGBASTON (second day of three): Warwickshire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by five runs

WARWICKSHIRE
A J Miles c Barnes b Cairns 22
N E Briers b Cairns 21
M J Gidley c Barnes b Cairns 22
J D Carr c Smith b Ayling 6
J R Brown c Ayling b Turner 47
P W Westwood c Symonds b Marshall 17
J E Embury not out 17
N F Williams not out 4
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 1) 3
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 181
D W Headley and A R C Fraser did not bat.
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BOWLING: M P Bicknell 8-0-48-1; Faton 8-0-45-0; Symonds 8-0-37-1; Robinson 7-0-46-1; Belling 8-0-48-3.
Umpires: D O Osler and M J Kitchen.

Gloucestershire v Kent

SWANSEA (Kent won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by 47 runs

KENT
T R Ward not out 28
N R Foster c Marsh b Cook 17
C L Hooper c Marsh b Cook 17
M R Barnes c Marsh b Cook 17
M R Barnes c Marsh b Cook 17
M R Barnes c Marsh b Cook 17
Extras (lb 4, lb 4, nb 3) 30
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 300
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Umpires: J W Holder and R A White

Yorks v Lancs

HEADINGLEY (second day of three): Lancashire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by four runs

LANCASHIRE
G Power c Byles b Gough 28
M A Atherton c Gough b Carrick 46
G Lloyd (lb) b Poles 5
N J Smeeth not out 102
N H Fairbrother not out 64
Extras (lb 1, w 7) 18
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 284
M Watson, W K Hogg, D Austin, J Faton, P J Delfino and P J W Alford did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-62, 3-110
BOWLING: Hogg 8-0-43-0; Carrick 8-0-56-2; Gough 8-0-53-1; Poles 8-0-44-1; Carrick 8-0-54-1.
YORKSHIRE
M D Moon b Watkinson 24
S A Kellie c Hogg b Delfino 11
P J Bailey c Hogg b Faton 10
S R Tendulkar not out 107
D Byles c Faton b Delfino 26
C White b Delfino 6
C S Poles not out 9
P J James not out 11
Extras (lb 13, w 1) 14
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 280
P J Hogg, D Gough and P Carrick did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-43, 3-219, 4-231, 5-238, 6-240
BOWLING: Hogg 8-0-39-0; Delfino 8-0-53-1; Watkinson 8-0-41-0; Faton 8-0-58-1.
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J R Brown c Ayling b Turner 47
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J E Embury not out 17
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Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 1) 3
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 181
D W Headley and A R C Fraser did not bat.
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BOWLING: M P Bicknell 8-0-48-1; Faton 8-0-45-0; Symonds 8-0-37-1; Robinson 7-0-46-1; Belling 8-0-48-3.
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N R Foster c Marsh b Cook 17
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Extras (lb 4, lb 4, nb 3) 30
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BOWLING: Ward 14-1-78-2; Foster 11-17-51; Barnes 14-1-37-0; Dale 5-1-20-0; Cook 12-0-7-0
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D J Foster, A P Igglesden and R M Elson did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-128, 3-185, 4-282, 5-282, 6-297
BOWLING: Ward 14-1-78-2; Foster 11-17-51; Barnes 14-1-37-0; Dale 5-

Christie runs to his place in history

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN BARCELONA

WHERE stands Linford Christie in the British all time sporting hall of fame? Such is the aura of the Olympic Games that to be an Olympic champion exceeds all other achievement, perhaps none more so than winning the 100 metres. To do so with the flourish of Christie, against the odds at the age of 32, assures him of a special place in the history books.

By winning against the rest of the world, Christie enters the realm within Britain — excluding team sports — of Lord Burghley, Henry Cotton, Fred Perry, Reg Harris, Jacklin, Faldo, Overt, Coe and Thompson. The latter trio, in their various ways, may have meant more to their sport, yet Christie's victory is a moment on its own, symbolic, unarguable.

There is something different about the shortest of races, its

apparent simplicity, with which every adult or child can identify more instantly than with any other single sporting activity. More people in the world, man or woman, ran a hundred metres than kick a football or hit a table tennis ball. It is the common experience.

It made Harold Abrahams famous for life in 1924. Jesse Owens in 1936, Valery Borzov in 1972 and Carl Lewis in the past two Games. It can change the life of Christie, if he has the wit to exploit his success, infinitely more than ever would have his silver medal in Seoul. The victory of Allan Wells in Moscow was compromised by boycott.

Starting like a hare from his blocks, in spite of his 6ft 2in, Christie ran the perfect race, limbs flowing, mind fixed, eyes distant, to defeat the favourite, Leroy Burrell, of the United States, who had finished second behind Lewis in last year's record-breaking

world championship race. It matters not that Lewis, unwell at the selection trials and anyone's normal favourite, was absent; history recalls the facts, not the background.

In 9.96 seconds, fractionally outside his European record in fourth place last year, Christie captured the attention and imagination not just of millions in Britain but around the globe. He was to sprint what Ken Rosewall was to tennis and Wimbledon: someone whom neutral spectators most wanted to win. His exceptional competitive sense for the big occasion earned him widespread affection. None could doubt the sincerity of the applause as he leaped the track at Montjuïc on Saturday evening, draped in a Union flag. The Olympic Games of Barcelona have been embraced by the host city more than any of the seven I have experienced. There was no spare seat in the house, and now they embraced Christie

just as they did the surprise winner of the women's sprint, Gail Devers.

What Christie now makes of his triumph is, to a degree, up to him. He can, of course, expect to make money. But more significant, like Owens after the Berlin Olympics, and to a lesser extent, Daley Thompson after 1984, he can become a symbol for advancing the integration of black people within British society.

Although Britain historically is a tolerant country as a home for all creeds, it would be naive to claim that racial integration is complete. The absence of black coaches and administrators, within athletics for a start, demonstrates that.

Christie, if he wishes, can become more than just an athlete, but such a responsibility should not be thrust upon him unless he seeks it. He can be lacking in discretion away from the track. For the moment, he is simply a

national sporting hero, irrespective of colour.

There have been few more emotional evenings that I recall than Saturday, including the climax of an heroic women's marathon as well as the surprises of the sprint finals. Outside the Montjuïc stadium, Barcelona's handsome wide boulevards were wall-to-wall with people, a scene not witnessed since the night Argentina won the World Cup in football in Buenos Aires 14 years ago.

So swollen was the metro with the flood of people to the Plaza España and Plaza Catalunya that the police were preventing crowds re-entering the station. At the heart of all this enthusiasm has been a cascade of exceptional sport.

If sport, as de Coubertin believed, is supposed to demonstrate ethical values in competition, we have never seen a more profound example than the embrace of Yegorova and Arimori after 26 miles of

pitiless rivalry around Barcelona's baking streets.

For the finish, I had left the stadium to see something of the horrendous last four kilometres that confronts the runners as they ascend the slope to the top of the "mountain". Barcelona sat in a sandy-coloured haze, a soupy cauldron for walkers — never mind runners.

With the sort of willpower that marathon runners find from somewhere unknown, when all willpower will seem to be washed away by sweat and fatigue, Yegorova had held off the challenge from the string-framed Japanese. But there was a salty expression of satisfaction on her face as she entered the stadium still 20 metres in front, like a lifeboatman home from the storm. When, across the line, the two women turned towards each other in mutual acclaim, they were expressing something unspoken that all of need and so few of us find.



Golden moment: Christie celebrates victory

British medal hope saves himself for final stages of hurdles after impressive outing in competition's first round

Jackson survives scare to ease into semi-finals

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

COLIN Jackson survived a near spill in the second round of the 110 metres hurdles last night, but dismissed the incident with a reassuring word that he expected to win the Olympic gold medal.

Jackson, Linford Christie's good friend and occasional training partner, took his first steps in the opening round yesterday morning with a run that put every other hurdler's performance in the shade. He ran 13.10sec, but was not as smooth in the early evening quarter-final, striking the fourth flight.

The error knocked Jackson out of his stride and he struggled to get up for the fifth hurdle. Fortunately for Jackson, it was only the second round, and such is his standard in this event that he can give away half a second in early rounds and still come through.



Letters, page 11
Simon Barnes, page 14
Results, page 19
Christie's triumph, page 20
Rowing golds, page 21

Jack Pierce, of the United States, beat Jackson, 13.17sec to 13.57. "I was taking it easy," Jackson, the silver medal-winner in the Seoul Olympics four years ago, said. "My coach [Malcolm Arnold] told me at the warm-up track that you don't get any medals for a good second-round performance. I do not expect to be running like that tomorrow."

Christie has given Jackson his vote of confidence.

"Linford told me that he has more confidence in me than he has in himself," Jackson said. "He has done the job and now it is down to me."

Tony Jarrett, the world championship bronze medal-winner from last year, progressed through the first two rounds without difficulty, winning his first round in 13.31 and finishing second to Tony Dees, of the United States, in the second round with 13.43. Hugh Teape, Britain's third representative in the event, has also made it into the last 16.

All three British 400 metres runners survived yesterday's second round and will compete in today's semi-finals. Roger Black, and Derek Redmond in particular, had something in hand at the finish of their respective second-round races, but David Grindley decided to press hard to the line and, though he may pay today for the energy expended, he enjoyed the reward of becoming Britain's fastest teenager.

Grindley, who won a bronze medal at the European indoor championships in March, is proving a fine championship competitor. He won the European junior championship last year. Now, at his first Olympics, he has risen to the occasion by taking half a second off his personal best time with 44.91sec in the unfavourable lane eight, too.

"I was a bit down when I heard the lane draw," Grindley, 19, said. "The aim this season was to run under 45 seconds and go to the Olympics. I am a strong lad and have done a lot of distance work, so running races back to back is no problem."

The suspicion remains that Black is struggling. Though he was clearly easing down towards the finish, he did not look entirely comfortable.

In contrast, Redmond looked as if he was strutting, but the time said otherwise. He won his second round in



High flier: Jackson successfully negotiating the heats of the 110 metres hurdles in Barcelona yesterday

45.02sec while Danny Everett, who was the favourite until an Achilles tendon injury was disclosed last week, looked in trouble. He was the last of the qualifiers in Redmond's race.

Sally Gunnell began her attempt to improve on the 400 metres hurdles silver medal which she won in the world championships by posting the fastest first-round time. She was the only competitor to break 55sec, her 54.98 marred only by slight faltering at two hurdles.

At least we know now that Tatyana Ledovskaya, the

world champion, is a genuine challenger. Little has been seen of Ledovskaya this year, but it had been expected she would come out and run well. She had shown little of consequence before going to Tokyo to suggest that she was in shape. The omens must be worrying for Gunnell.

The four main contenders won their heats. Sandra Farmer-Patrick, the US champion, taking her's in 55.12. Janeene Vickers her's in 55.24 and Ledovskaya, her's in 55.03.

In the flat women's 400

metres, there were encouraging signs as Sandra Douglas ran a personal best of 51.41sec to qualify for the semi-finals and Phyllis Smith won in 51.32.

Steve Smith, the youngest member of the British team, showed big-occasion temperament by passing on his third attempt at 2.31 metres in the high jump and taking it at a potential personal best of 2.34. As the only Briton to reach the final, he was unfortunate to clear the height with his body but drag the bar off with his feet.

Gill Clark and Julie Bradbury fell one hurdle short of a medal when they lost in the quarter-finals of the women's badminton doubles to Hwang Hye-Young and Chung So-Young from South Korea, by 15-5, 15-5.

With almost any other draw, the Britons would have had a fair chance of sneaking through for a medal; yet against the Koreans, one sensed they felt this was unlikely, and once again, Hwang and Chung proved they are the world's outstanding combination.

She said that Sean, her son, who is in Barcelona, had brought Linford to their house. "I've just spoken to my son and he said that although his father's influence was not that marked on Linford there was certainly a link between the two."

Mrs Pickering was at Heathrow yesterday to see off four athletes to Barcelona who had been given packages by an oil company to experience the Games. They are all winners of the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund which aims to help athletes make the transition from junior to senior competition. Curtis Robb, who runs for Britain in the 800 metres here, has been another winner of a training award.

Mrs Pickering will fly out to the Games on Friday with her daughter, Kim, because she has won an Olympic quiz competition.

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Selectors have done right by dropping Hick

By ALAN LEE

GRAEME Hick's Test career began with the promise of turbo-power but has produced only a baffling sequence of misfires. Yesterday, the defective engine was sent in for an overhaul as, for the second time in consecutive summers, England discarded the enigmatic run-machine for the deciding Test of a series.

Hick is the batsman sacrificed as England revert to a policy of five bowlers for the final Test against Pakistan at the Oval. Devon Malcolm and Phil Tufnell are recalled to provide pace and spin, redundant at Hedingley, but it was decided yesterday that Phillip DeFreitas's fitness cannot be risked in a five-day game.

Only 12 have consequently been named and apart from mourning the continued absence of a specialist wicket-

keeper, my regret is the inclusion of both Pringle and Munton at the expense of a second spin bowler.

Hick's expulsion overshadows all else, however, if only because he is unique. Never before, surely, has anybody been such a phenomenal success in first-class cricket and such a singular failure at the highest level.

His career average is 60, which he has sustained this summer by making 903 runs in 15 innings for Worcestershire. But after 17 Test innings, spread over three series, and harshly exposing technical shortcomings, he has only once reached 50 and averages a lamentable 18.06. He has survived this far, so much on borrowed but invested time, a matter of the selectors hanging on and praying for a return on their input.

	Age	Tests
G A Gooch (Essex, capt)	29	28
A J Stewart (Surrey)	24	21
M A Atherton (Lancs)	28	35
R A Smith (Gloucestershire)	35	116
D I Gower (Wants)	32	9
M R Parry (Worcestershire)	22	1
C G Lewis (Notcs)	24	13
D R Pringle (Essex)	30	2
N A Mallender (Somerset)	30	1
P G Tufnell (Bedcs)	26	1
D E Malcolm (Durham)	27	2
T A Munton (Warwick)	27	2

Now, with a series in the balance, England feel that a special case, which undoubtedly he is, can no longer be accommodated. There are many who feel that Hick has been indulged in a way that would never have been afforded to other players but the point is that no other player has started a Test career with

such an astonishing volume of runs behind him.

The loyalty was justified but so, too, is the decision to disown with him now. Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, said yesterday that Hick "remains a supremely talented cricketer" and spoke specifically of his future. It would still be a surprise if that future did not begin with a tour place to India.

When Hick was previously dropped, for last summer's corresponding Test against West Indies, Tufnell and David Lawrence shared 14 wickets in England's victory. With Lawrence ruled out long-term, and an apparent heir in Mills injured short-term, this is not the first time that Malcolm's selection has had the ring of default about it.

Dexter called him "our one

bowler of genuine pace", which, in the circumstances, so he is. But his 30 wickets this year have cost 41.77 runs apiece and if his inclusion is justified, on a pitch sure to have the requisite life, it remains an indictment of the available resources.

Neither Munton nor Pringle is having an outstanding year, either, and Pringle's figures — he has taken just 25 wickets — are further clouded by fitness concerns. He bowled only 35 overs for Essex during July and is missing the game against the touring side with a thigh strain, evidently not serious. He has not been at his best and the Oval is unlikely to suit him.

As Mallender demands another game, either Pringle or Munton will be omitted from the final XI. How much more scope, one wonders,

could have been gained by replacing one of them with a spin bowler?

The selectors gave the matter "serious consideration" but were discouraged by the returns of spin bowling at the Oval over the past five years. A partner would, however, have helped Tufnell, and the tandem with Ian Salisbury might just have won the game, which the worthy Munton and Pringle are most unlikely to do here.

High among Graham Gooch's priorities this week will be to settle on a new ship cordon. England have gradually dispensed with their three specialist slips, Lamb, Hick and Botham, as well as their wicketkeeper. Replacing an entire fielding unit is one of the greater gambles of the summer.

More cricket, page 24

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Party guests find girl, 15, strangled in woodland

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A TEENAGE schoolgirl who had left home just before midnight to meet friends was found strangled in woodland only a few hundred yards from her home, Hampshire police said last night.

The body of Helen Gorrie, 15, who lived with her mother and brother in Hornsea, near Portsmouth, was discovered close to a hall where 80 guests were attending a wedding reception. The party ended when four guests taking a walk to get a breath of fresh air stumbled upon the girl's body around 9pm on Saturday night, almost 24 hours after she had left home.

Helen was identified late yesterday after her mother, Sheila, responded to publicity on the murder earlier in the day and came forward. Detectives were last night expected to talk to school friends from Purbrook School, where Helen was a pupil.

She had been strangled and her body dumped near a path at the rear of Merchistoun Hall, Hornsea, a short distance from the A3. Police said that the body was lying on a footpath 100 yards away but in full view of the hall where the wedding reception was held, in an area popular with courting couples.

The hall is part of a community centre in four-and-a-half acres of grounds which are open to the public. The area is criss-crossed by paths and well-used by local people as a short cut to homes in the area where Helen lived.

Police last night warned young people and women not to walk alone in the area until the girl's killer was found. The victim's jeans were around her ankles when her body was discovered. Hampshire police said last night that although Helen had not been sexually assaulted a sexual motive for the killing had not been ruled out.

Detective Superintendent Douglas Quade, who is leading 40 police officers in the murder hunt, said Helen had left home shortly after 11pm to meet some friends. "She was not a particularly streetwise kind of girl, but it was not uncommon for her to go out at that time in the evening," he said.

Police want to hear from anyone who saw Helen after she left home. She was 5ft 5in tall, of slim build and with fair shoulder-length hair pulled back with a red band. She was wearing blue denim jeans, a light-green and grey striped jumper and white and

grey boot-style trainers. A post mortem showed that she had died 24 hours before her body was found. Police said that there were no signs of a struggle at the scene and no indication that the body had been moved to the spot.

Det Supt Quade said the newly married couple, who had since left for a honeymoon abroad, had stopped the reception after being told of the murder. He said the names of 80 guests had been passed on to police, although he was not linking the reception and the murder.

A large area around the spot where the murdered girl was found was sealed off yesterday as detectives carried out a fingertip search of the scene and house-to-house enquiries. An incident room has been set up at Havant police station.

The victim's body had been examined at the scene by police surgeon Dr Carol Pickstock and a post-mortem was carried out by Home Office pathologist Dr Roger Ainsworth. Det Supt Quade said medical evidence suggested she had been killed at least eight hours before she was found, and possibly only minutes after she left home.

He said that the footpaths which crossed the parkland were used as a short cut by local people and that could explain what Helen had been doing there. The land separated the community centre and nearby homes. Detectives believe Helen encountered her killer as she passed an area of shrubbery near the centre.

Helen's body was formally identified yesterday by her mother, Sheila Gorrie, who is separated from Helen's father. The alarm had been raised by Alan Walter, the licensee of the community centre, who had been working behind the bar at the wedding reception.

He said: "I was running the bar when two couples, whose faces were as white as a sheet, came and asked me to get someone in authority. They said there had been an incident at the back of the hall."

"I dialled 999 and decided to go and look for myself. It was a terrible sight. The poor girl was just lying on the floor. It really shook me up."

News of the murder cast a shadow over the village of Hornsea, which had earlier been celebrating the success of villager Matthew Pinsent, who won a gold medal with his rowing partner Steve Redgrave in the coxless pairs at the Barcelona Olympics.



Practised hand: Dame Alicia Markova corrects the poise of Clara Zagdown of Italy at the Yorkshire Ballet Seminar at Ilkley yesterday

Children take legal action against airline

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

FOUR British children who were on board the British Airways flight trapped in Kuwait during the first hours of the Gulf war are among passengers who have started legal proceedings against the airline.

BA confirmed yesterday it would be defending the actions, which include claims

for compensation for psychological trauma suffered during the ordeal and allegations of negligence and wilful misconduct, two years to the day that BA flight 149 landed at Kuwait airport within hours of the Iraqi invasion.

More than 70 passengers, seven from Britain and the others from France and the United States, have issued writs against the airline.

Many were held hostage and used as human shields during the war and have suffered long-term psychological trauma.

The case will reopen arguments about why the flight was allowed to land at least two hours after Iraqi forces had crossed into Kuwait, and about how much and when the British government knew of the invasion. A class action

suit filed in San Diego, California, at the end of last week, alleges that BA "knew or should have known of the hostile invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi armed forces, and the resultant danger to the lives and safety of the plaintiffs".

BA says that crew on the flight, bound for Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia via Kuwait, had no reason to know when the flight landed, that Iraq

had invaded, and that the airline "cannot be held liable for the events in Kuwait".

The British legal fight for compensation is being fought on three fronts. The chief is the claim that the airline was responsible for the safety of the passengers in its care and for any injuries they suffered, under the Warsaw Convention. The others are breach of contract and negligence.

A spokesman for East Sussex council said: "Presumably this footpath became overgrown and disused but our attention has been drawn to it as an established right of way. We have a legal obligation to make sure footpaths are kept free of obstructions."

Hopes dim for crash Britons

THE parents of two Britons thought to have been on the Thai Airways Airbus 310-300 that crashed in the Himalayan foothills on Friday were waiting for news of their sons yesterday as search parties sifted the wreckage.

Simon Petri, 23, from Marlow, Buckinghamshire, was on the final leg of an eight-month tour of Asia. It is feared that he and John Steele, who is thought to be from the Home Counties, were on the flight from Bangkok to Kathmandu. Rescuers said there was no hope of survivors. The plane had exploded after hitting a ridge at about 11,500 ft, eight hours by foot from Bidur, the nearest town. Mrs Valerie Petri said last night that she and Simon's father, Vittorio, had not given up hope that he might be alive.

Airline officials said the pilot had reported a technical problem moments before he lost contact with the control tower in Kathmandu.

Coach excursion puts stars in tourists' eyes

A GROUP joined the small bands of sightseers who gathered among the ubiquitous tour parties and pigeons in Trafalgar Square yesterday.

The group of 18 visitors were the first to experience Star Safari, the only London guide to the homes of the rich and famous. The tour has already angered one Notting Hill resident, Jason Donovan. The Australian singer and actor says that coach parties of tourists are an intrusion.

For £19 sightseers were offered a first-hand glimpse of the apartments, news houses and clubs frequented by the stars.

At the start of the tour the guide pays tribute to the lesser known proclivities of Nelson and Lady Hamilton, to fill in time as the coach travels through St James's en route to Belgrave. The history lesson continues through club land. Here is Pratt's, then Brooks's, and there are the bay windows of Boodle's. Winston Churchill's favourite club, and there is White's (you must be related to God to be a member) and where the Prince of Wales held his stag night.

Ears which prick up at the

Tom Rhodes goes on Star Safari for a first-hand glimpse of the apartments and clubs frequented by the famous

mention of royalty are sure to be disappointed. The Prince's Trust has paid for much of this venture, run by I-Spy Tours. Owner Henry Powell is rather evasive on matters royal. On to The Ritz, where Paul McCartney held his wedding reception, and then, finally, the safari starts in earnest. Do they know that Norman Tebbit, Margaret Thatcher's most ardent supporter, is a neighbour of Michael Heseltine, who resigned from her Cabinet? What happens when they meet over the milk bottles in the morning? And there, further on, is Lady Thatcher's house with the policeman outside. "Lord McAlpine was instrumental in finding her the house," intones the guide. "And she hopes the Duke of Westminster will look favourably on her lease when it comes up for renewal in 2001." On to the squares of Belgrave.

home to no less than one duke, two duchesses, five lords, six ladies and a sir—in this case the composer, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Janet Date, a guide and former actress, is in her stride. The air is thick with anecdote and innuendo. Ian Maxwell's house gives ample opportunity to regale the captive audience with tales of the crooked captain and his two sons. To the former Maxwell employee her stories sound limp, but are amusing.

In Chelsea attractions include Christine Keeler's council flat and the Coprad Hotel, to which rock star Prince once brought his own bed. "The key to our tour is that it must remain both interesting and topical," said Powell. "But we do make sure that we never stop for too long nor do we get too close as we are aware of not wishing to offend anyone." Criteria for inclusion on the trip, he said, depends on prominence and newsworthiness. The London homes of Joan Collins, Tina Turner and particularly Freddie Mercury—whose Logan Place home has become a grill to pilgrims of pop—will always court attention.



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On the itinerary: Joan Collins, Norman Tebbit, Tina Turner, Freddie Mercury

These days many prefer Wigan's pier to the traditional beach

Rich tide of tourism ebbs from Morecambe's shores

THE Morecambe Visitor makes gloomy reading this week, reflecting that this premier northern holiday resort has lost both its sparkle and its way.

Les Whittingham, owner of the prestigious Midland Grand Hotel, has outraged Lancaster City Council by allowing car boot sales beneath the windows of his best bedrooms. "Morecambe needs visitors. End of story," he told the Visitor.

Mr Whittingham is concerned that Morecambe is ruled by Lancaster City Council. The two places, he insists, are as incomparably different as chalk and cheese.

Tourism is in a gentle decline this season. Takings are down with poor weather, recession and a lack of entertainment to attract visitors being blamed. A council report seeking ways to create a renaissance in Morecambe and neighbouring Heysham coldly states that the resort "provides a much trimmed and consequently less satisfying product". But from a bas-

Ronald Faux finds a quieter Morecambe, in the second of a series of Times reports on how British resorts are faring

ket chair in the sun lounge of Mr Whittingham's famous art-deco hotel, built by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway in the heyday of steam and anchored like an ocean liner alongside the central beach, the town's greatest

natural attraction was easily admired.

A sunset that filled Morecambe Bay with a blaze of golden light outlined the Lake District fells. The beaches may fall short of EC quality standards but this free show

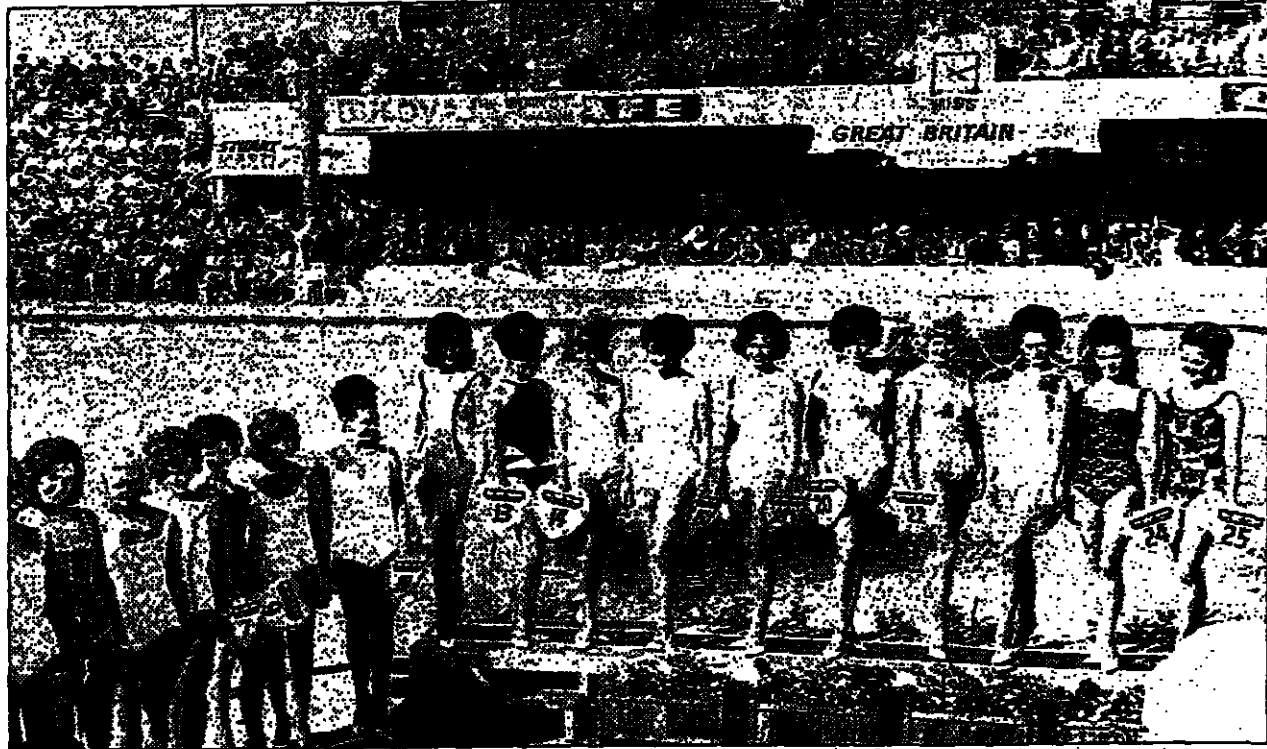


Room to spare: today's quieter beaches

was reason enough to come to Morecambe.

There are overcast days and both piers have gone, lost to storm, fire and demolition. When the town's tourist authority erased the one remaining pier and the Winter Gardens from a promotional map, there was an outcry. "We got national publicity," Trevor White of the tourism office recalled. But the pier was unusable and the Winter Gardens, once a favourite entertainment centre for visitors, was shut down 17 years ago and has been gathering dust ever since. The town does not have a cinema.

Other lost attractions that once brought in the holiday-makers in droves include the Miss Great Britain beauty competition, which focused national television attention on Morecambe. That became a casualty, some say, to militant feminism while the animal liberation movement is charged over the demise of Marineland and the departure of Rocky the Dolphin to Florida. "They may not be



Crowds to stare: spotlight on a thriving Morecambe in 1964 when the town was delighted to play host to the Miss Great Britain contest and gain unlimited publicity in the process

directly responsible but they helped change the public's appetite for those kind of events," David Hartley, an electrician from Manchester, said.

He liked Morecambe for what it was: a nice, quiet place that was easy to get to with his wife and two children and where the natives were

friendly. He did not have to go to an airport in the middle of the night then get sun-scorched and food-poisoned in some concrete resort where nobody understood English.

There has been a sharp drop in holidaymakers since 1974 when more than 750,000 of them stayed for one or two weeks. Now about

250,000 stay for an average of 4.9 days although day visitors are thought to number 1.25 million.

Traditionally the working class from the mill towns of Yorkshire and Lancashire arrived in vast numbers. But now there are day tours from Morecambe to those same towns which have developed their own tourist attractions. Morecambe offers day trips to Wigan, which has both an industrial heritage and a pier to boast about.

In Morecambe many guest houses and small hotels have closed in streets where the view is not of the sea and where the owners failed to improve quality. The era of the autocratic landlady glowering choosily at a queue of prospective guests on her doorstep has long gone. "We go by the three Cs these days - comfort, cleanliness and courtesy," says Lyn Pickford of the Morecambe Hotels and Caterers' Association. "But we have failed to get the young, mobile couples with no kids and some spending power. They don't come to Morecambe and the golden days of the Fifties and Sixties won't ever return."

Hotels and guest houses admit a downturn in trade in the early season of between 5 and 10 per cent and the recession is evident in shops that offer cheap and cheerful

goods, fast food and reduced prices to what attractions there are. The old Pleasureland has been turned into a Wild West theme park with Morecambe's vintage big dipper now rattling along its tracks as the Texas Tornado.

Grand plans for redevelopment, for a strengthened sea front and new attractions costing millions, among them a tower, are on the drawing board but have yet to materialise.

Morecambe remains quietly overshadowed by Blackpool, its big, brash neighbour. A hat worn rakishly by a holiday maker on Morecambe promenade made some kind of distinction. It said: "Kiss me - slowly".

MORECAMBE

Population: 40,800
Visitor beds: 18,000
Hotel rates: £10 to £50 a night
Theatres: one
Beaches: three, sand and shingle.
Other amenities: bubbles all weather leisure pool, frontland rides and amusements, Happy Mount park.
Nearby attractions: the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales national parks, Lancaster Castle, Morecambe Bay bird reserve.

Child skin cancer risks 'increasing'

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS are urged to keep their children indoors between 11.30am and 2.30pm or to ensure that they wear sun protection creams and wide-brimmed hats to protect them from developing skin cancer.

The call comes as a study published by Greenpeace today finds that damage to the ozone layer increases the risk of British children developing skin cancer by old age by up to 15 per cent.

The report, by Brian Diffey, a medical physicist from Dryburn Hospital in Durham, claims to be the first attempt at quantifying the risk of increased skin cancer in the UK due to ozone depletion. Greenpeace alleges that the government has failed to carry out this research itself in spite of being urged to do so.

The report looks at the possible human effects of the damage to the layer of ozone gas in the stratosphere which filters out potentially cancer-causing ultra-violet light from the sun's rays, in particular the middle range of the ultra-violet spectrum known as UVB. The ozone layer is being depleted by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), man-made

chemicals used in spray cans and refrigerators, at a rate of 8 per cent per decade in the spring and 2 per cent in the summer over the UK, the report says.

Dr Diffey's study, which attempts to calculate the increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancers - mostly found on the face and curable - from increased exposure to UVB that this depletion implies, on a "typical" family of two 35-year-old adults and a ten-year old child. His conclusion is that, although there is less than a 5 per cent increased risk for the adults, the child, likely to spend more time outside, has an increased risk, rising to 10 per cent by the age of 60 and 13 per cent by the age of 70.

Calling on parents to restrict the amount of strong sunlight to which their children are exposed, Dr Diffey said: "For future generations, who may be required to live under a depleted ozone mantle, quite marked changes to lifestyle may be necessary."

Doctors are to warn people at Painsley beach, in Torbay, Devon, from August 24, of the potentially deadly link between sunbathing and skin cancer.

Health hazards lurk in swimming pools

HUNDREDS of swimming pools are so poorly run that swimmers could be risking stomach upsets and skin rashes from dirty water, health officials say today.

A survey by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers found a low priority given to water quality in about half of all pools. In 6 per cent there could be "a high risk" to swimmers' health, according to the survey, which was based on reports from the environmental health departments of 196 local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The institution said that it was particularly concerned about lack of water purity control in paddling pools, because children were especially vulnerable

to germs. About 40 per cent of the pools in the survey were in schools and colleges, 30 per cent in local authority leisure centres, 22 per cent in hotels and holiday camps, four per cent in private clubs and three per cent in hospitals and military bases.

The survey did not test water quality, but looked at whether operators of swimming pools were aware of official guidelines to ensure that water was clean and whether they had monitoring procedures to check quality.

More than a quarter of pool operators had no written procedures to monitor water quality, and 45 per cent were unaware of the environment department's guidelines.

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1501-1502

Asian parents prepare for church school opt-out

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ASIAN parents of pupils at Slough and Eton Church of England School, Slough, will campaign to opt out of local authority control if Berkshire County Council fails to meet their demands at a confidential meeting tonight.

The council has already received a petition from 1,000 people which complains of "institutional racism" and "Euro-centric bias at the voluntary-controlled school, where 98 per cent of the 400 pupils are Asian but staff and governors are predominantly white."

Nine community leaders and parent-governors are to meet Geoffrey Parkinson, chairman of the council's education committee, to discuss the allegations, which include the charge that a Muslim candidate for the headship was passed over on racial grounds.

Mr Parkinson said that the meeting would be an informal chance to talk to Sikh parent-governors who were unhappy with the management of the school. "I can't say what we'll discuss. It would be inappropriate at this stage for me to make comments," he said.

Chaudhry Ifakhar Ahmed, president of the Pakistan Welfare Association in Slough, said that parents wanted an Asian welfare officer at the school, greater access to interpreters and an enquiry into the rejection of the Muslim candidate for the headship, who wished to remain anonymous.

"He should have been ap-



Parkinson: informal talks with parents

pointed because he was very intellectual and cared for the pupils very much. He was an inspector of schools and had all the necessary qualities and references. But he was rejected because of colour," he alleged.

The school needed more parent-governors appointed by the local authority, Mr Ahmed said. "They should nominate governors from this multi-cultural society. Many of the governors have been there for 15 to 20 years and are very traditional and conservative." If negotiations with the council failed, the community would use "all our means" to achieve its demands.

The school's difficulties began earlier this year after allegations that teachers were charging pupils small sums of money for misbehaviour.

A council enquiry found problems of "communication" which it hopes will be solved over the next two terms by the new acting head, Ray Hadfield, an official in the

education department. However, parents are already discussing opting out as a way of gaining more influence over the school, prompting comparison with Stratford School, a grant-maintained establishment in east London, where a group of Asian governors came into conflict with a white head teacher.

Muhammad Haque, chairman of the London Collective of Black Governors, who was widely criticised for his role in the Stratford dispute, has expressed an interest in the case.

The drawing of such comparisons has not been welcomed by Slough and Eton's governing body, the chairman of which is a master at Eton College. General Rupra, deputy chairman and an active member of the local Sikh temple, said: "The thing is not black and white as the media have said. I'm concerned about the education of the children. We are a community. We are Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims. We are fighting for the education of our children and if it was a white child I'd demand just the same."

The Rev Anthony Dickin-

son, a governor appointed by the church, said yesterday that attempts were being made to balance the different interests on the governing body. "But there is nothing that can be done about the demands for more parent-governors. We are bound by the law and instructions from the education department which makes it quite impossible for parents to have a majority."

Tonight's meeting between council and community is not the first time attempts have been made to broker a settlement. Tom Long, regional officer of the National Union of Teachers, who has been called in before to assist the school with its difficulties, said that it ought to be the "flagship" of Berkshire education. "The local authority has a special responsibility to make that school work in the sense that it's got to make it accessible to parents. I think that now, if somewhat belatedly, that is becoming clear to the authority. But at the moment, there is the danger that parents could be used to exacerbate the political situation."

Education Times, L&T section, page 7



Concerned: Chaudhry Ifakhar Ahmed

Reforms sought by law alliance

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS and solicitors are joining forces for a radical review of the civil justice system intended to reduce the cost of going to law and delays.

The rare joint initiative between the Bar and the Law Society, the first of its kind for many years, comes when the profession is under fire about the expense of civil justice. Last week, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, urged the profession to examine ways to cut costs and make justice more accessible.

The joint review coincides with the royal commission investigation of the criminal justice system and is expected to be far-reaching, resulting in proposals for sweeping changes in the way people settle disputes. The review will consider the existing court structure and is likely to recommend abolition of the present two-tier system, with a High Court and county court, and the creation of a single unified court system.

A central feature will be alternative dispute resolution, and ways to remove disputes from the courts through such procedures as mediation,

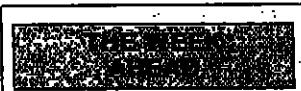
conciliation and arbitration. Hilary Heilbrunn QC, who will chair the joint working party, said: "It is now quite clear that our system of justice is under immense strain. Costs and delays are escalating and there appear to be no extra resources to relieve these problems."

The profession recognised that "fundamental changes need to be made to civil litigation. It is therefore in the public interest that both branches of the profession should work together to examine how we can make existing resources go further and make the system more effective and efficient for its users."

□ M15 surveillance will be challenged in a case being lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights. Liberty, formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties, has submitted an application for Harriet Harman MP and Patricia Hewitt, former adviser to Neil Kinnock, on whom files were opened when they worked at the NCCL and who were wrongly classified as communist sympathisers.



Eton's other playing fields: the church school



Today, report into allegations of abuse and cruelty at the Ty Mawr children's home near Abergavenny, Gwent, is due to be published. BR is expected to announce cuts in its InterCity rail services. Anti-Apartheid Movement delegation to meet Baroness Chalker to press for a reappraisal of Britain's policy towards South Africa following the Bolpatong massacre. First prosecution within hunting fraternity under new laws to protect badgers.

Tomorrow: Short-haul cabin crews at British Airways due to go on 24-hour strike. The airline says it expects most staff to work normally. National Westminster Bank to publish yearly results following Lloyds, which showed a slight increase in profits. The rail watchdog, the Central Transport Consultative Committee, publishes its annual report.

Wednesday: Trial opens of the man charged with stealing papers revealing Paddy Ashdown's affair. Princess of Wales to visit Newcastle. National Plain English Day.

Thursday: Barclays announces interim results following announcements from Lloyds and National Westminster. Progress report on £40 million improvement scheme at Paddington Station. Winner of British "Boss of the Year" to be announced. London lorry driver due in court in Newcastle charged with kidnapping and murdering three young girls in the 80s. Friday: Annual Thames Traditional Boat Rally on the regatta course at Henley.



Chalker: talks on policy towards South Africa

Doubt cast on use of lay people in church

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

LAY ministry and local leadership does not always work well as an alternative to a residential vicar or rector, according to a survey of Church of England parishes.

The survey shows that more people go to church and have their children baptised when a parish has a resident vicar. The researchers, the Rev Leslie Francis and David Lankshear call for a closer examination of the effectiveness of unpaid clergy living in a vicarage. Their report, published in the *Journal of Rural Studies*, comes at a time when changes in the pastoral organisation of the church have led to fewer clergy, the amalgamation of churches within multi-parish benefices and the sale of many rural rectories and vicarages.

Many parishes respond by developing a lay ministry from local people, urging committed churchgoers to combine their full-time jobs with running Sunday worship. Some dioceses have resisted the sale of apparently redundant rectories and filled them with non-stipendiary clergy.

Professor Francis, of Trinity College, Carmarthen and Mr Lankshear, deputy general secretary of the National Society, which supports education in church schools, considered nearly 2,800 rural parishes with populations of fewer than 1,250 people. They found that parishes with a resident vicar had higher numbers of Sunday, Easter and Christmas communicants and more infant baptisms.

They say: "While these findings do not invalidate the theological insights which commend lay ministry and local leadership, they indicate that, at present, such theory may not necessarily be working well in practice."

Their survey shows how far the church has moved since the Victorian age, when every hamlet, no matter how small and remote, supported a church, parson and parsonage.

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Swift action demanded to settle ownership of silver treasure locked in Manhattan vault

Lawyers accuse Yard of dragging feet over silver hoard

HIDDEN deep in the vault of a Manhattan skyscraper languishes £40 million worth of Imperial Roman silver. There 14 lavishly decorated ewers, basins and bowls known as the Sevso treasure have lain since they were impounded by a New York court in March 1990.

Plans by Sotheby's to sell them on behalf of Lord Northampton were foiled by a flurry of ownership claims from countries which were once part of the Roman empire. Now questions are being asked by lawyers representing those claimants about why Scotland Yard's investigation into the hotly disputed silver is taking so long.

Ray Harding, a New York lawyer representing the former Yugoslavia, where the hoard may well have been found, is more forthright. "The Yard has said that they intend to arrest people. When is it going to happen?" he demanded. "Why is there this back-tracking?"

The treasure was impounded to allow civil litigation in New York. Soon Scotland Yard said it had started a criminal investigation into what took place during the recent trading of the silver by members of the international art world.

When the Sevso silver was unveiled by Sotheby's in February 1990, the company offered it complete with export licences which stated that it had come from Lebanon. The Lebanese authorities denied issuing such licences, and evidence emerged that criminal activities could have taken place in the British Isles, and so the Yard investigation began.

Yesterday the slow progress suggested by the offices of Lord Northampton and the lawyer representing Yugoslavia, one of the claimant countries, was acknowledged by Det Chief Supt Tom Glendinning, who has responsibility for the International and Organised Crime branch which is running the

The saga of the Sevso hoard has embroiled armies of lawyers. Sara Jane Checkland examines the issues at stake

operation. "I am aware there have been some misgivings by some of the individuals involved," Mr Glendinning said. "But it has been an extremely complicated enquiry. We have to get all the material absolutely right before we proceed."

Over the past two years, the investigation has focused on the role of Sotheby's and its colourful former chairman, the late Peter Wilson, who was the mastermind behind bringing the hoard onto the market. He died in 1984 and has since been named as a key member in the so-called Oxford spy ring.

Detectives also set out to prove which of the three countries which have staked a claim — Yugoslavia, Lebanon and Hungary — was the true source of the silver, and might therefore have legitimate claims to ownership.

In June 1990 the officer in charge of the case, Det Supt Graham Seaby of the International and Organised Crime Branch, said that criminal offences may have been committed. Since then he has repeatedly claimed



Lord Northampton: sale plans foiled

that arrests were imminent, but none have been made. Witnesses who might have been able to provide crucial evidence about the provenance of the silver have not been interviewed.

Choosing his words carefully, Ludovic de Walden, Lord Northampton's solicitor states: "It is no secret that Lord Northampton is surprised that despite the evidence available, the police seem to be slow in beginning any prosecution."

Mr Harding added that he has offered to introduce detectives to a witness who claims to have been present when the silver was unearthed in Croatia. However, the area in question is understood to be a war zone, making access difficult if not impossible.

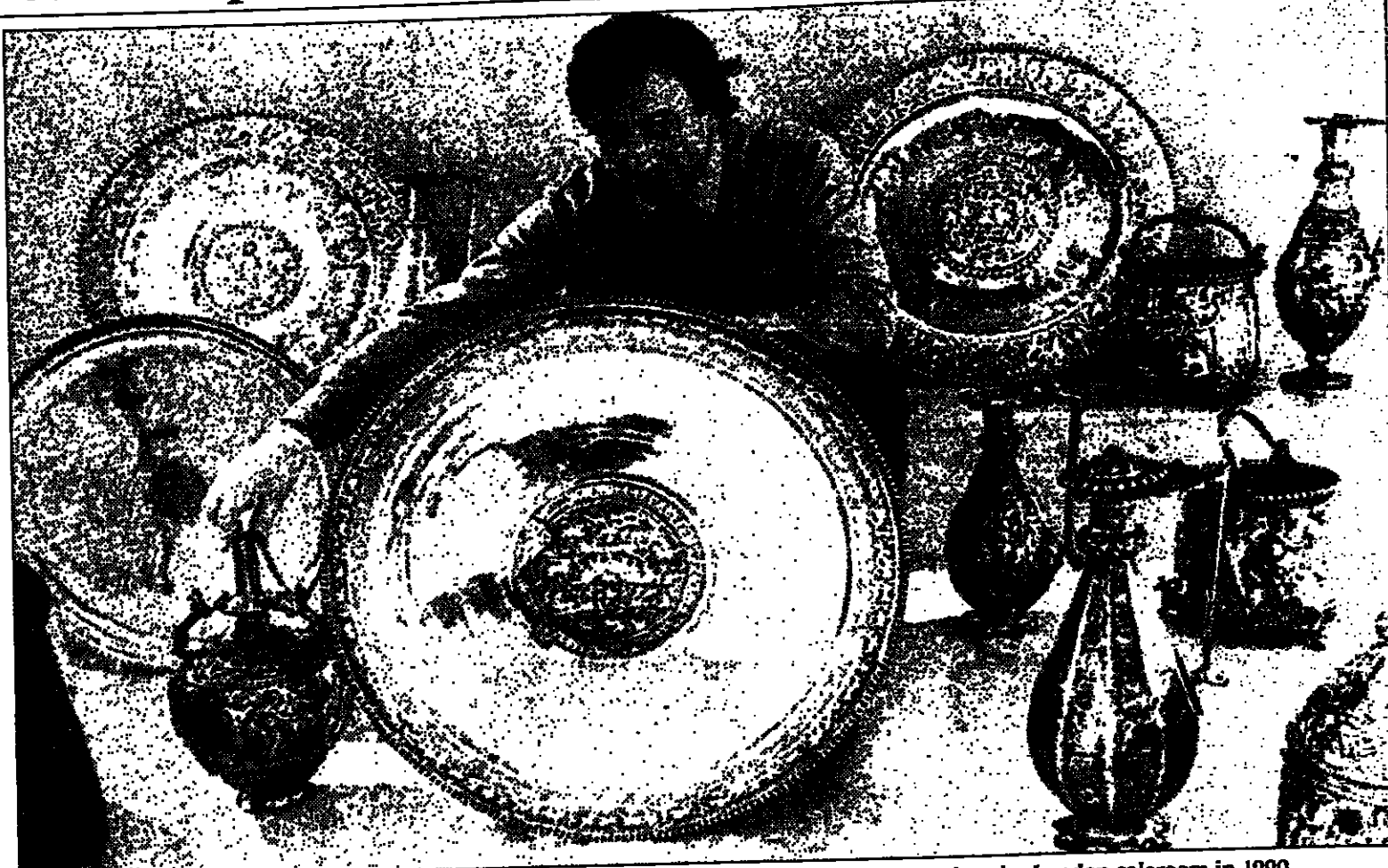
Faced with no alternative suggestion from Scotland Yard, such as interviewing the possibly crucial witness in London, Mr Harding feels that the Yard is not doing all it could to get to the bottom of the matter.

It is understood that other alleged witnesses claiming knowledge of the find site have been interviewed, and Mr Harding argues that this line of enquiry is essential if the silver's recent chronology is to be cracked.

Both he and Donald Luke of Rogers & Wells, who represents Lebanon, complain that Scotland Yard issued statements last year saying that Lord Northampton and Sotheby's had been cleared "of any criminal intent".

Mr Luke says: "We find it surprising that they were able to issue such statements at such an early stage in the investigation." Apart from further material arising from the police investigation, tens of thousands of pages of evidence has been amassed in the New York court.

Meanwhile the prospect of an early resolution of the country's claims is highly unlikely as the judge is not expected to start deliberating until this autumn. On June



Heart of the matter: Marcus Linnell of Sotheby's with a section of the Sevso hoard at the London saleroom in 1990

28 1990 Mr Seaby said in a report to his superiors that he was investigating three specific matters which could involve a "conspiracy to defraud" because, in his view "the silver was given false provenance in order to make it firstly saleable and secondly very competitively priced".

Mr Seaby's report added that the international dealer Halim Korban had been involved in the sale of the items, and that "a Mr Jenkinson, from the Channel Islands" also attempted to sell the pieces to the Getty Museum in California in 1984. The museum had declined the offer after questioning the paperwork, to Mr Jenkinson's indignation.

Mr Seaby's report concluded that export documents for the silver were "obtained by Philip Wilson, the son of Peter Wilson, the late head of Sotheby's in London, who... travelled to Beirut in 1985 and returned with the new papers". Since that report, in June 1990, the Yard investigation seems to have made

little progress, according to the lawyers.

Meanwhile, Lord Northampton, who argues that because he bought the silver in good faith he acquired good title, is finding the delay expensive. His lawyer Mr de Walden confirmed that in addition to lawyers' fees, Sotheby's are trying to recover \$2.9 million for the abortive sale and the ensuing litigation. Mr Harding's dif-

This disputed document purports to give Lebanese permission to Philip Wilson to export ten items out of Lebanon. Apparently stamped and approved by the Lebanese departments of antiquities, foreign affairs and justice, it is only one of tens of thousands of papers lodged with the New York court. The document says he is cleared to export through Beirut airport or the port of Jounieh to London.

iculties include the fact that his original client, the Republic of Yugoslavia, has fragmented into warring states. Theoretically, he does not have a client any more.

Earlier this month he made a renewed application to the Supreme Court in the name of Croatia, and this is now being considered by Judge Carol Huff of the New York Supreme Court. But the so-called Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, has also laid claim to the silver. Such developments compound the already labyrinthine complexity of the case.

Arguably worst affected by the apparent lack of progress is the solicitor Peter Mimmpriss, a partner in the leading firm of Allen & Overy in London. He represented Lord Northampton throughout the complex period during the 1980s when export licences were procured, and in the initial negotiations with Sotheby's.

When plans to sell the silver through Sotheby's failed, Lord Northampton withdrew his instructions and turned to Mr de Walden to handle his case.

In March last year, Lord Northampton issued a "protective" writ against Mr Mimmpriss and his firm for fraud, deceit and misrepresentation, in case it turns out that one of the rival owners to the silver has a better claim to it than he has. Mr Mimmpriss meanwhile has to wait until

the Scotland Yard investigation is complete before being able to gauge the financial implications of Lord Northampton's claim against him and his firm.

A colleague of Mr Mimmpriss, John Rink, confirmed that, in spite of the writ and its allegations, the lawyer has not been interviewed by Scotland Yard. "Peter is a part of this firm, working full-time for this firm, and is very highly regarded," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Seaby, to whom all the feuding parties look for a sign that criminal proceedings are to start, may be about to begin an entirely different enquiry in Trinidad. Thus the fate of the Sevso silver and all those who have come into contact with it looks unlikely to be resolved for some time to come. Mr Glendinning declined to answer each allegation one by one, but said: "The Sevso inquiry is still very current, and I would anticipate it will be resolved in the near future."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoners try to break out

A Home Office enquiry was launched yesterday into an attempted break-out by 30 inmates at Lindholme prison, Doncaster, in which several jail officers were injured. The prisoners tried to smash their way out in a dumper truck.

A prisoner attacked the driver, took over the truck and tried to ram the perimeter fence as windows were smashed and staff were pelted with bricks.

Peter Leonard, the governor, said only prompt action by staff prevented a riot on Friday. There have been two riots there in five years.

Arson checks

A man on a motorcycle stopped by Wiltshire police after five fires broke out within 90 minutes is being questioned about nearly 50 West country farm fires.

Rape attempt

The description of a man who tried to rape a 27-year-old Oxford woman as she walked home from a party bears similarities to the man who raped a student in the city two months ago, police said.

Back to life

The 140-year-old water lily house at Kew Gardens will reopen today after a 12-month closure for repairs and restoration. The house has been restored to its original iron and glass form.

Police appeal

Detectives investigating the planting of eight firebombs in Milton Keynes. Buckinghamshire, want everyone who visited the five affected premises last Thursday to contact the police. It is hoped they might have seen something which would help officers.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bonds prize draw are £100,000, number 14HT 755711, from Reading (value of £4,000); £50,000, 21BN 055735, Edinburgh (£3,000); £25,000, 30AZ 743081, Cornwall (£1,010).

Quest for racially pure honey-bee stirs experts

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE British bee world is abuzz with debate over an ambitious plan to restore the racial purity of the native honey-bee after more than a century of interbreeding with foreign imports.

Later this month bee specialists at the Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture near Tonbridge, Kent, will artificially inseminate 70 pure-bred virgin queens with the semen of selected drones to form the nucleus of what they hope will become a race of superbees, tailor-made for British conditions.

Those behind the scheme rely heavily on experience accumulated in Germany, acknowledged to be a leader in the field. Work on single-race bee breeding began there as long ago as the 1930s as a by-product of Nazi interest in eugenics.

David Jackson, a former policeman and enthusiastic amateur bee-keeper since boyhood, is a leading light behind the Hadlow project. "Our aim is to re-establish the Dark European Honey-bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, which until the second half of the last century was the only bee kept in the British Isles," he said.

Mr Jackson and his colleagues say that *Apis mellifera mellifera*, also sometimes called the British Black, adapted to the local environment over thousands of years and possesses better traits than any other mix of traits all bee breeders want: docility, hardiness and the ability to produce good honey in our cooler, wetter summers.

"For much of this century bees have been imported from all over the world. What we have now is a highly mongrelised, racial hodge-podge with very variable characteristics and high levels of aggression — in other words bees that sting and swarm a lot and are becoming much more difficult to manage."

Over the past decade dedicated amateur sleuths in the British Isles Bee Breeders' Association, based in Derbyshire, claim to have located

the native British Black surviving largely untaunted in isolated areas of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, identifying pure bees by detailed body measurements.

Short of universal adoption of artificial insemination, which is unlikely, the Hadlow scheme can only work if large numbers of bee-keepers agree to cooperate by gradually restocking their colonies with "pure" bees.

Such an approach is strongly resisted by traditionalists in the British Bee-keepers' Association, which represents 14,000 of Britain's 35,000 mainly amateur apiarists, rugged individualists all.

Kingsley Law, the association's general secretary, based in Devon, points out that much has changed, not least the type of crops grown, since the days when the British Black was the only bee around. "Oilseed rape has become the main forage crop for bees only in the last 20 years," he said. "Cross-breeding between different races is likely to produce bees best suited to changing conditions, which vary widely from one part of the country to another."

There is more enthusiasm

from the Bee Farmers' Association, which speaks for 400 commercial beekeepers with 40 hives or more each. Brian Stenhouse, its general secretary, says: "I don't care what race the bee is but if Hadlow can produce a bee with the right characteristics, commercial operators will be interested. At present there is no breeding programme at all."

The "pure race" advocates say cross-bred bees are genetically unstable and cannot be accurately reproduced. Imported pure-bred species, such as *Apis mellifera ligustica*, the Italian native bee, which is popular in southern England, perform well for a while but decline in quality after a generation or two because of unavoidable mating with other bees.

Mr Stenhouse believes that a more docile and manageable type of bee is needed more than ever because of the recent detection in this country of varroa, a parasite that sucks bees' blood. "The chemical treatments and other techniques required to keep varroa under control make it essential that bees are easy to handle. Otherwise many beekeepers may simply give up."

TONY WHITE



Worker: David Jackson examines a new colony.

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Intervention debate produces some unexpected allies

A straw poll among the British intelligentsia and political class over how the West should respond to the conflict in former Yugoslavia produced some unexpected comrades among the hawks and doves, write Michael Binyon and Matthew d'Ancona

THE bloody civil conflicts of this century, such as the Spanish civil war, the 1973 coup in Chile and guerrilla war in Nicaragua have traditionally divided the left and right along clearly marked intellectual battlelines. But since the end of the Cold war such struggles have posed moral dilemmas no less heart-rending but infinitely more subtle.

The sight of atrocities and "ethnic cleansing" on the fragmented battlefield that used to be Yugoslavia has stirred deep emotions in the British intelligentsia and political class. But as a straw poll by *The Times* yesterday showed, the Western response has produced some unexpected comrades in the hawk and dove camps.

Among those who argued in favour of strong intervention by the international community to force an end to the conflict which yesterday cost the lives of two child evacuees, gunned down by a sniper, were:

Michael Foot, former Labour leader: "I think there should be strong military action. The idea of keeping out is absurd because it just plays into the hands of the military in Belgrade. What is annoying at the moment is that some of the people in the West, and I'm afraid that includes the British, are saying that there is never going to be action. If that's heard in Belgrade, then there's going to be a lot more horror."

Roger Scruton, conservative philosopher: "From what we've seen of those being shuffled off against their will in cattle trucks, the opening up of camps for people who are never seen again, and talk of ethnic cleansing, it's a repeat of events we've seen under Nazism and Communism. We went to war with the Nazis because we had to and we should have intervened to stop the Communists after-

wards... These are the kind of things that can justify intervention and you've got to make stop... It would not be feasible for the EC, because they can't do anything. But perhaps Britain and America could do it."

Julia Neuberger, rabbi and human rights campaigner: "We have to intervene. One would first of all like to see the UN with a strong presence there and then the EC, including this country, taking in refugees. Of course it will involve bloodshed, but there comes a point when it gets too much and you have to intervene. But a lot of people are saying that it's just the Balkans again, which only adds to the delay."

Sir Anthony Parsons, former ambassador to the UN: "I don't believe that an ethnic crisis can be solved by force of arms. Obviously, that can

'Yugoslavia is not a far away country of which we know little. It is a challenge to the new world order and to the EC'

only be solved by the parties themselves. If there were to be any actions it would have to be with more limited objectives in mind. But it is rather strange that so powerful a grouping as Nato or the Western European Union, so well co-ordinated for over four decades, doesn't feel it has the capacity to step in and raise the siege, stop the attacks on the ports and prevent the worst of the savagery... Public opinion is beginning to build up and governments will have to take notice... If there hadn't been such media coverage we wouldn't have seen the rescue of the Kurds from the mountains."

Hugh Montefiore, former

Bishop of Birmingham: "There is no case for intervention without the backing of the United Nations. The EC cannot decide to keep the law without UN authority. But provided the UN agrees there is a place for limited force such as air power, though not the use of an army, except to guard safe havens for refugees. Once you get an army involved in the Balkans it could go on for ever. The need for intervention is more justified now than earlier because the sufferings of the refugees are more terrible. It is also clear that the Serbs have larger ambitions than people realised."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader: "Yugoslavia is not a far away country of which we know little. It is a challenge to the new world order, to the political will of the European Community and to our common humanity which we will dodge at our peril."

Others of differing political colours—including a founder of the New Left and a former Tory party chairman—were reluctant to commit troops to a struggle whose purpose, outcome and duration remained ill-defined.

E.P. Thompson, socialist historian and anti-nuclear campaigner: "There's an extremely biased news manufacture in which the fact that the Serbs are also suffering in large numbers in Sarajevo itself is barely mentioned. And hush, don't mention it to anybody—I am a supporter of Lord Carrington who is taking a lot of flak in Europe now. I think that the rather traditional English response is justified on this occasion. The Germans helped to precipitate by premature recognition without any recognition of what are called minorities. But the whole idea of a separate nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina is rather ridiculous... The wholesale

FOR WESTERN INTERVENTION IN THE BALKANS



Julia Neuberger, Roger Scruton and Michael Foot

AGAINST WESTERN INTERVENTION



Lord Hailsham, Sir Stephen Spender, and E. P. Thompson

stampede of the intelligentsia in this country to endorse nationalism of any form and to instantaneously recognise all these nations without any form of constitutional debate is very mistaken."

Lord Hailsham, former Lord Chancellor: "What I'm sure about is that a lot of nonsense is being talked about it. Carrington has done the only thing that is possible and Chalker was right not to allow mass immigration from such a distance... Many are asking: ought there to be a

military operation? But before that, we should be asking: what do we hope to achieve by it, how are we going to get there and what are we going to do when we get there? After all, war is simply a legalised form of butchery... It's no good bombing all these people to hell. A single air strike is going to be of no use at all. It all boils down to the man on the ground, the poor infantryman. How's he going to be supplied? How long is he going to be there?"

David Howell, chairman of

the Commons foreign affairs committee: "Outside intervention earlier might have prevented the fighting, but will now only compound mistakes that have been made. At this stage there is not a case: too many mistakes have been made, and there are no glimmers of ethnic stability. No one knows what lines are to be held. The world community will come under tremendous pressure from independent nations to do something about the refugees, and no doubt Britain should

do something as far as practical to help them."

Sir Stephen Spender, poet: "I'm against turning the war in what was Yugoslavia into an international conflict. I support the idea that there should be a very large area in Europe to which all refugees should go."

"Instead of individual countries taking them in, there should be a place to which they could go and looked after until after the crisis was over... With a lot of regret, I'm not in favour of

further military intervention. I've been reading Harold Nicolson on the subject of how all this blew up in the Balkans in 1908. It wasn't just 1914. I fear international action would be the first step in a series of endless steps."

● New York: The Serbs who control northern Bosnia have established two concentration camps in which thousands of civilians have been slaughtered, starved or imprisoned, according to two released prisoners interviewed by *New York Newsday*.

Tired Pope greets pilgrims

Pope John Paul II appeared tired and his hands trembled slightly when he appeared in public for the first time since his operation to address several hundred pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo. He said: "I have the joy of meeting you for the first time since my hospitalisation, during which I appreciated people's solidarity. I thank God and all those who wished me well from around the world."

Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's president, has annoyed the country's tiny Jewish minority by for the second time describing Jews as "hard-hearted". On a visit to the northern town of Mount Darwin and in the presence of A.H. Hafim, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's ambassador, he criticised Israel's treatment of Arabs in the occupied territories.

Imelda Marcos, 63, who has been in Hong Kong searching for the billions of dollars her late husband Ferdinand was alleged to have salted away, returned to Manila empty-handed, but with a few extra pairs of shoes. She blamed friends of Corason Aquino, the former president, for blocking her search.

Johnny Koo, 53, a Hong Kong businessman prosecutors say was one of the world's biggest heroin smugglers, is to testify today before Congress about the tidal wave of "China white" he unleashed on America. He was sentenced four years ago to 27 years in prison.

Colombian authorities have acknowledged that there was an elegantly furnished bedroom in the quarters from which Pablo Escobar, the drug baron, recently escaped in the special maximum security prison where he was being held. But they denied that he had his own Jacuzzi.

Tudjman's chances still uncertain as Croatia polls proceed smoothly

CROATIAN officials said that shells had fallen on the town of Slavonki Brod yesterday, but that otherwise elections were proceeding without serious incident. Croats were voting in the first general and presidential elections since the former Yugoslav republic was recognised as an independent state. Election officials registered displeasure that one newspaper had breached a ruling on campaigning on the eve of the poll. It had published a report on a book launch by Stipe Mesic, the last president of the former Yugoslavia, who is now the chairman of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union. The launch was seen as covert electioneering, especially as the glowing title of Mr Mesic's tome is *How We Destroyed Yugoslavia*.

President Tudjman's decision to call elections has been criticised by opposition parties which point out that up to a

A quieter life since the UN arrived on the front lines may help the Croatian ruling party, writes Tim Judah in Zagreb

third of the country is under Serb control. Foreign observers were impressed by the way that refugees had been able to vote, but also expressed grave reservations about Croats voting abroad, saying that there were no registers of these people, nor would there be any controls over polls in Croatian community centres as far apart as Britain and Australia. Dr Tudjman argues that the war is over, but few people on the front lines believe him. In the devastated hamlet of Blinjski Kut, southeast of Zagreb, Croat police laugh at the suggestion. "It's going to take years yet," said one officer. Weave through the now disintegrating mines planted along

the road leading to a United Nations checkpoint, and Serb "border police" can be seen barely 100 yards away.

Opposition parties have taken Dr Tudjman to task for not putting enough pressure on the UN to return territories now under its protection—but Blinjski Kut illustrates why he and his party may gain more than the 40 per cent that the opinion polls are predicting.

"We are very unhappy with Unprofor [the UN peacekeeping force in Croatia]," said Ivan Lovas, who has spent the past 15 months defending his village. "They are protecting the Serbs," he said. But Mr Lovas was speaking broadly. Sipping beer in his front



Blunders made in ethnic minefield

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE international community's handling of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia has been based on "hypocrisy, double talk and destructive improvisation", according to a report published this week by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

One of the chief lessons is the need for early responses to ethnic flashpoints, the report says. "The Yugoslav crisis had given countless warnings that it could easily escalate into violent conflict, and yet the international community did not begin to move until it was too late," John Zamanica, author of the report, says.

Conflict prevention constituted "by far the weakest area of external response to Yugoslavia". Early this year, when UN troops were poised to arrive in Yugoslavia, the international community still had no coherent policy.

Dr Zamanica, research fellow in European security at the University of Westminster, admits there are limits to what can be achieved in Yugoslav-type conflicts. "It can bribe or threaten, provide its good offices, and deploy peacekeeping forces if all else fails, but the international community is neither a moral entity nor a world policeman."

Many mistakes have been made, for example, in recognising Croatia, the European Community assumed that the Serbs in that republic were a

minority, not a nation. Irrespective of whether the Serbs should be regarded as a nation or as a minority, "it made no sense whatsoever, from the point of view of an overall Yugoslav settlement, to create a situation which one party found unacceptable."

Dr Zamanica said: "The EC tried the impossible—to support, albeit implicitly, both the principle of self-determination [Croatia] and state sovereignty [Croatia]. It could not work." He said: "In circumstances where... a conflict has already taken place, the international community cannot respect the right of self-determination of one group alone."

The national question in Yugoslavia was most strongly represented in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The three main political protagonists had set out to pursue the national interests of the ethnic groups they were elected to represent. The EC provided "the deadly catalyst" for the Bosnian denouement. Once the EC peace conference in The Hague in October 1991 made its conditional offer of recognition to any republic that wished it, the Croats, and particularly the Muslims, were under enormous pressure to seek it.

The Yugoslav Conflict, by John Zamanica, Adelphi Paper, International Institute of Strategic Studies, Brassey's, £9.50

Refugees pine for homes in Bosnia

FROM IAN MURRAY IN WÜRZBURG, RHINELAND PALATINATE

IN A holiday hotel high on the plateau above the Moselle, the villagers of Prijedor are planning their return to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"If they give us guns and an equal chance we will go back," said Elvir Sunic. "All we want is the chance to fight and we will go." But there are no guns available at the Hoberus Stube where they are staying, and the 16 families who arrived here at the weekend insist that they will not go home without guns. Until then they must stay.

To hear the villagers talk, one would think they are guerrilla fighters resting before another daring attempt to liberate their homeland. They say they are grateful to Germany for caring for them and their families, but they do not like to be so far away from home. Dzafic Abdulah proudly shows the picture of his new stone house in the village. "It has everything," he says, "a fine kitchen, food in the cellar and a truck and tractor in the yard."

But he had to buy his right to leave the village with everything he owned. He produces a flimsy official document carrying the typed stamp of the local town, Bosanski Novi. "I give everything I own to the city and promise I will leave here for ever and ever. Here it says that I signed this without them forcing me to do it," he says, laughing bitterly. "Here is my signature. I have nothing left. They have taken everything. But I will go back if I can get a gun. We Muslims can never go back to live there in peace as we used to. Either the Serbs must go or we cannot go back."

Albert Thomas, the local Red Cross official in charge of running the hotel, understands only too well the problem. "How long will they stay? That is the great unknown. But you just cannot shut the gates to safety in these people's faces. We have to help."

Republicans seek drastic measures to save party

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Republican party's disarray was on display yesterday as congressmen, officials and party activists urged a bewildering range of radical prescriptions to defy mounting odds and hold on to the White House in November.

In a series of Sunday television chat shows dominated by Republican woes, angry conservatives demanded that George Bush stand down. Others demanded Dan Quayle's removal from the ticket. A few of the party's more senior figures begged for restraint. "Republicans have been eating their young recently and we are going to destroy this party," said Senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire. Republicans must "quit cannibalising themselves," said Carroll Campbell, governor of South Carolina.

The Republican right de-

manded that Mr Bush bolster his conservative base, moderates that he fight the centre ground, where the Democrats were competitive again for the first time in three elections. All demanded some form of drastic action to boost a campaign that has been tossing around like a dinghy in a tempest. Jack Kemp, the conservative housing secretary, called on Mr Bush to mount a "domestic Desert Storm" to revive the economy and challenge Congress.

Andrew Card, the transport secretary and former top White House aide, called the continuing debate over the Republican ticket interesting but irrelevant as it would not change, but one respected congressman, Vin Weber of Minnesota, served warning that the party was in a "perilous state" with lots of Republican candidates in elections this November panicking and liable to jump on the "Dump Quayle" bandwagon.

Certainly, with Mr Bush in grave danger of becoming only the fifth incumbent this century to fail to win re-election, and with Bill Clinton better placed to win the White House than any Democrat since Jimmy Carter in 1976, there is no sign this year of the traditional August lull in the presidential campaign. The Bush campaign today starts broadcasting its first political commercials, the idea being to deplete Mr Clinton's far smaller war chest by forcing him to respond. Mr Clinton tomorrow resumes his barnstorming post-convention bus tour across the American heartland, this time travelling from St Louis, Missouri, to Minneapolis. Rumbling across the Republican landscape is the continuing dissent that Mr Bush must swiftly scotch.

Conservative disaffection was transparent yesterday. Burton Pines, a conservative political analyst, and Richard Viguerie, head of United Conservatives of America, both demanded Mr Bush step down, with Mr Pines saying that conservatives would at best "choke down their bile" to vote for him but would never work for him. In Orange County, California, the *Orange County Register* also demanded Mr Bush's departure, comparing his failure to that of Jimmy Carter.

From the moderate wing Bill Green, a New York congressman, called the Bush campaign "dead in the water" and urged the dramatic step of replacing Mr Quayle with General Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Gulf war hero, to broaden the party's appeal. Each vote Mr Bush attracted from the centre was worth two, as it was one less for Mr Clinton. Speculation over Mr Quayle's future looks set to engulf the party's Houston convention, despite White House insistence that his position is safe.



Couple take the plunge literally

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DEFYING a state order, a bride and bridegroom bungee-jumped together from 170ft over the Atlantic on Saturday, as hundreds of people jammed the boardwalk in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to watch.

Timothy Fui Cher, in a black tuxedo, and Nony Tedjakusume of Indonesia, wearing a white wedding gown, took the plunge after riding Asian and African elephants out to the Steel Pier, a bungee-jumping amusement centre.

A crane hoisted them in a steel cage as Indian musicians played traditional wedding music and a drum roll. The couple waved, gave the thumbs up and jumped, holding each other tightly.

"I feel great," Ms Tedjakusume, 27, a computer analyst, said after the jump. "I looked up so I wouldn't look down and get scared."

On the same day in Peterborough, Canada, an attendant testing bungee-jumping equipment at a fairground plunged to his death in front of hundreds of horrified onlookers. The bungee cord had not been secured, police said.



Faces of China: a Peking woman waits for a bus by a poster marking the 65th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army. Peking is trying to improve the army's image

Left and right join battle over gadfly editor's reputation

The 'conscience' of America is accused of KGB links, writes James Bone from New York

THE late Isidor Feinstein Stone was universally recognised as the gadfly of American journalism. From 1953 to 1971, "Izzy" published *I.F. Stone's Weekly*, an iconoclastic newsletter that came to epitomise the independent conscience of the "Fourth Estate", even for those who disagreed with his liberal views. But now, three years after his death at the age of 82, Stone's reputation is under attack, with an expert on Soviet disinformation claiming that he worked for the KGB.

The allegation has provoked an acrimonious battle in the American press as the left and right in American politics fight to settle old scores. The row began when Herbert Romerstein, a former American official now conducting research on the former Soviet Union, announced in the Washington newsletter *Human Events* that Stone had worked for the KGB for more than 20 years. According to Mr Romerstein, Stone first broke from the KGB in 1956 but returned to the fold and remained a paid KGB agent until the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. He attributed his information to an unnamed "retired high-ranking KGB officer who knows a great deal about Soviet intelligence operations in the US". The source apparently identified Stone as the journalist

referred to in a speech in London by Oleg Kalugin, the retired KGB general once the top KGB operative in America. "We had an agent—a well-known American journalist—with a good reputation who severed his ties with us after 1956," General Kalugin said. "I myself convinced him to resume them. But in 1968, after the invasion of Czechoslovakia, he said he would never again take any money from us."

Mr Romerstein is a fierce anti-communist. The author of *Communism and Your Child*, he served on the staff of the House Un-American Activities Committee during the McCarthy years. From 1983 to 1989 he headed the US Information Agency's office to counter Soviet active measures and disinformation. His allegations have been repeated and embroidered by Reed Irvine, of the right-wing *Accuracy in Media* group, who claimed that a former KGB officer told him Stone was a "KGB agent of influence". Mr Irvine went so far as to

question how Stone managed to finance his yearly trips across the Atlantic on the QE2 while always complaining about the parious financial state of his newsletter.

The Nation, a left-wing news weekly for which Stone once worked, sprang quickly to his defence and denounced Mr Romerstein's allegations as a "coarse smear". "Why this attack at this time on this target?" *The Nation* asked. "Communism may be dead, but Marxism, while hardly in vogue, is still breathing. And much of the credit for that must go to unrepentant radicals like I.F. Stone."

"Destroy his credibility and you effectively deny the possibility of an independent left position. Concede him his credibility—grant him the compatibility of his beloved Jefferson and his equally beloved Marx—and I.F. Stone remains, even in death, an extremely dangerous man."

D.D. Guttenplan, who is writing a biography of Stone, telephoned General Kalugin on *The Nation's* behalf and got the story denied. "It's not true," he quoted the former KGB man as saying. "I did not recruit him and I did not pay him money."

But Mr Romerstein then called General Kalugin himself, and proclaimed in a newspaper column that he still believed that Stone was a KGB agent.

Guilty generals go quietly in Thailand

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

THE Thai military, which is used to having its own way, is meekly accepting the abrupt dismissal of its top commanders after they were found responsible for the bloodshed during May's anti-military uprising.

The army killed scores of unarmed demonstrators at the time and injured hundreds more. In a move unprecedented in Thailand, Anand Panyarachun, the prime minister, at the weekend stripped the two most senior officers and two other generals of their posts and transferred them to ignominious jobs. He replaced them with men committed to democracy and civilian rule.

Air Chief Marshal Kasat Rajanaril, who was supreme commander and air force chief, was made a military inspector-general, a humiliatingly unimportant post. General Issarapong Nonpakdee, the army commander-in-chief, has become a deputy permanent secretary at the defence ministry, where he has no authority. Earlier, the prime minister removed the two men from lucrative part-time jobs at the head of the national airline and the telephone organisation.

No civilian prime minister has ever given so many generals their marching orders. Mr Anand's action rendered pow-

erless the clique of officers who engineered the coup against the elected government last year. Later they forced through a new constitution perpetuating their political power and then in May brutally suppressed a popular uprising against military interference in politics.

Leaders of the democracy movement in Bangkok said they were satisfied with the action against the guilty officers but still wanted them to stand trial for their crimes. The amnesty decree has made that virtually impossible. Retired Major General Chamlong Srimuang, who led the demonstrators in May, said the officers' dismissal had been demanded by the public and would improve the political situation and reduce military interference in next month's general election. He thought the military would now be genuinely professional and did not expect any backlash from the armed forces.

Earlier, senior officers close to the army chief threatened retaliation if he were sacked. General Santhorn Kongsompong, the former supreme commander, condemned the dismissals as "high-handed. But no violent reaction from the military is expected because the officers who command troops and weapons support the prime minister."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New head splits church

Tirana: Albania's Orthodox Church inaugurated its first archbishop in 25 years yesterday, but the ceremony in the Holy Annunciation church here was marred by shouted protests. Many church members oppose the choice of a Greek national to head the church. Although the ceremony marked an important stage in the church's recovery after its suppression by the communists, it also fuelled fears of growing Greek influence.

Archbishop Anastasios Yannoulatos, a professor at Athens University, had been appointed last year by the Patriarch of Constantinople, head of the Greek Orthodox Church, to reorganise the Albanian church. "This is a temporary solution, because Albania has no bishop who could assume that responsibility for the moment," Kosma Qirjo, an orthodox priest, said. But many adherents claim the appointment has split the Albanian church. (Reuters)

Crowd fired on

Ndjamena: Para-militarygendarmes shot dead five civilians in the Chad capital, national radio reported. The report said they opened fire when a crowd tried to prevent the arrest of a man who was one of those killed. Witnesses said the man had resisted arrest because the gendarmes had no warrant. (Reuters)

Afghan split

Islamabad: Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis), a hardline Afghan group, has suspended its membership of the ruling leadership council, accusing President Rabbani of acting against the interests of Islam and the country and of flouting an agreement under which the Mujahidin took power in Kabul. (Reuters)

Volcano erupts

Santiago: The 9,613ft snow-capped Copahu volcano on Chile's border with Argentina erupted three times at the weekend, causing heavy seismic activity in the area 340 miles from here. Officials have issued a warning that it might trigger avalanches. (AP)

Jail flight

Amsterdam: A 31-year-old prisoner escaped when a helicopter with two men on board landed in the Zwag prison courtyard and lifted him out. The man was serving a sentence for robbery with violence. (Reuters)

Fire rages

Moccasin, California: A blaze apparently ignited by a campsite fire was raging out of control at the weekend about 20 miles west of Yosemite national park. More than 3,500 acres of land were burnt and thousands of people were forced to evacuate their homes. (AP)

Foreign invasion brings French motorists to a holiday standstill

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

INTENSE heat and monstrous traffic jams made it a weekend of highway hell in France, as the media put it, and set the natives again wondering why they inflict the agony of the great August departure on themselves.

From Brittany to the Côte d'Azur, motorists crept along for hundreds of miles, roaring in what the authorities said was the biggest holiday snarl-up on record. For Bison Futé (Crafty Bison), the American Indian cartoon character who delivers the official forecasts of road conditions, the

reasons were simple: five million citizens had ignored his advice and taken to the roads on Saturday where they were joined by two million foreign vehicles.

Those who tried to beat the rush with a midnight departure found themselves in 120-mile jams leading south from Paris towards the Rhône valley. "It's August 1 and we're not hanging around," said one family man sitting at the wheel of a stationary Renault loaded with camping equipment on the Paris ring road.

The country's eternally angry farmers could be counted on to enliven drivers' miseries. They attacked motorway toll gates, offering travellers free passage as part of *Opérations Sourire* (Smile), a campaign aimed at erasing the bad name they have earned with their disruptive *Opérations Escargot*.

Even holiday-makers sunbathing on Mediterranean beaches were not left unmolested by politics. Elisabeth Guigou, the minister for European affairs, was there, handing out copies of the Maastricht treaty, mercifully condensed, and urging citizens to vote "yes" in next month's referendum. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the extreme-right National Front, appeared at Menton to

launch his anti-foreigner campaign for a "no" vote.

A few million French have headed a decade of pleading and take the sacred month's holiday in July, but the relief has been nullified by foreigners who have turned France into the world's top tourist destination. Eleven million Germans are visiting, mainly taking over the forests and hills of the east. Nine million Britons are coming this year, largely seizing the campsites and beaches of the west, not to mention the GB-only colonies of Normandy and the Dordogne. The Italians have occupied the Côte d'Azur. Affluent Japanese have fallen in love with Gallic village life that they go through second wedding ceremonies in town halls and churches followed by second honeymoons in Japanese-owned chalets. The holiday boom is partly the result of astute marketing abroad.

But many of those who do not benefit from selling to foreigners think saturation has been reached. The mood is visible in the anti-foreigner themes of both sides' referendum advertisements. Even the Socialist posters show caricatures of ugly Americans and Japanese. A vote for Maastricht is supposed to prevent them dominating the world.

Officials cut camels from Aida

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

OPERA fans who have been looking forward to open-air performances at the Caracalla baths are outraged over plans to produce Verdi's *Aida* without the use of camels on stage for the first time in 52 years.

Gian Paolo Cresci, the superintendent of the Rome Opera, said he was puzzled at the decision by municipal authorities to ban the two camels rented for the summer performances in the Roman ruins. The ruling cites a by-law that prevents animals being kept in archaeological zones.

"*Aida* has to be done with animals on stage," Signor Cresci said. "I was determined to have horses in the triumphal march, a dove on the head of Amneris and the camels."

A recent restructuring of the theatre at the baths by the architect, Paolo Portoghesi, included provision for a tent to house the two camels between performances. Signor Cresci said he hopes to make up for the loss of dramatic effect by using cheetahs as props.

Job for veteran diplomat fails to end squabble in Rome coalition

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE appointment of a veteran diplomat, Emilio Colombo, as foreign minister failed to heal the divisions within Italian government parties yesterday over the composition of a parliamentary committee created to initiate political reform.

The beleaguered cabinet of Giuliano Amato, the Socialist prime minister, won praise from employers after it brokered an agreement on Friday under which trade union leaders agreed to abolish the sliding-scale system of wage indexing that has long been a source of inflation. But the naming as foreign minister on Saturday of Signor Colombo, 72, a Christian Democrat who has served as a minister 26 times, including a spell as prime minister from 1970 to 1972, raised questions over Signor Amato's claim to be leading a government composed mainly of "new faces".

Signor Colombo replaces Vincenzo Scotti, who caused a cabinet crisis when he resigned suddenly on Thursday. The new foreign minister is a traditional rival of Giulio Andreotti, who resigned as prime minister following a severe setback in the April general election. Signor Colombo is a southerner sometimes nicknamed "the



Colombo has served as a minister 26 times

Metternich of Potenza," where he has his constituency. The *Corriere della Sera* newspaper yesterday described Signor Colombo, a lifelong bachelor, as "a man of private passions", including horses and writing books.

He has served as foreign minister five times between 1980 and 1983 and has twice been president of the European Council. He is regarded as one of the founding fathers of Italian involvement in the European Community.

La Stampa called Signor Colombo a "homo democristiano" through and through and recalled that he distinguished himself as foreign minister in the past by the

curious habit of giving interviews while reclining on a chaise longue at the foreign ministry building.

The seriousness of the government party's intention to change the electoral and political system was called into question yesterday when the Christian Democrats excluded a prominent reformer, Mario Segni, from a newly formed parliamentary commission on institutional reform. Signor Segni is the leading figure in a campaign to reform Italy's proportional representation system and replace it with something resembling the British "first past the post" voting system. He organised a popular referendum in June 1991 that showed Italians are overwhelmingly in favour of institutional change.

"My rejection is an offence to the millions of citizens, many of them Christian Democrats, who voted in the referendum," Signor Segni said. He said he had been excluded from his party's list of members for the committee of "wise men" because he had refused to promise to toe the party line. The commission of 60 parliamentarians from both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate was conceived by President Scalfaro to allow parliament to forge ahead with reforms.

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ANC distances itself from violence as action week begins



Hani: says self-defence units out of control

FEAR of violence in the townships as a result of the African National Congress's week of mass action against the South African government, starting today, has begun to tell on the organisation's leadership. Even its militant wing yesterday softened its anti-government rhetoric.

Chris Hani, the firebrand former leader of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, who is now secretary-general of the South African Communist Party, complained at the weekend that ANC self-defence units were committing atrocities and running riot in the communities they were supposed to protect. Mr Hani, a member of the ANC executive, was asked by the movement to investigate its self-defence units. In an interview with the local *Sunday Times*, he claims they are totally out of control.

Units in Sebokeng, in the troubled Vaal triangle south of here, are fighting among themselves for political turf.

Intimidation seems inevitable in the ANC week of action, dubbed 'Mandela's referendum', and it is unlikely to give the mandate he needs, Michael Hamlyn writes from Johannesburg

he said. The battle had already claimed the lives of three shop stewards. Other defence units had necklaced opponents in the area and in Soweto. They had set up kangaroo courts in Bloemfontein which had flogged people found guilty of various charges, imposed a tax on black businessmen in the northern Transvaal, overthrown an elected residents' association in Phyla Park, a squatter camp in the eastern Witwatersrand, and made the camp a hideout for car thieves. They have also fired indiscriminately on vehicles travelling the main road south from Johannesburg to the Vaal river and beyond.

And in Durban an unusual moderation was displayed at a meeting between senior figures in the Communist party and businessmen. Mr Hani was also present and admitted that there was a need for accountability and political tolerance. While the

ANC and its alliance of other anti-apartheid organisations and trade unions may not yet have achieved this, they were working at it, he said, adding: "All of us must be taught the culture of democracy." Reinforcing his words, police announced that seven residents at Orange Farm, a Vaal triangle squatter camp just outside Evaton, had been hacked, stabbed and burnt to death by unknown attackers. The emphasis being given to the behaviour of the bootleg element among the ANC's supporters — and the effort to distance the leadership from it — might well be attributed to the fear that the coming week of action could lead to a bloodbath. There is no doubt that the general strike, scheduled for today and tomorrow, will be en-

forced by some violent intimidation.

A black office worker in Johannesburg said: "People pointed out a couple of houses in Soweto which had been burnt out. That's what will happen to your house if you go to work today."

Political commentators here are saying that the general strike cannot be enforced without intimidation. They add that the week of action will be a severe test for the ANC leadership. One newspaper described it as "Mandela's referendum". They point out that, just as President de Klerk held a whites-only referendum last March to demonstrate that he had the support of the white community, so Mr Mandela needs to show that he has the full-hearted support of the black.

There are those who now believe that he will fail this test. The *Financial Mail*, which speaks for the white business class, declared at the weekend that the mass of

blacks was displaying a marked lack of interest in the process of mobilisation. "The ANC and its cohorts proclaim mass marches, which do not occur, and the phantom seizure of buildings like the Johannesburg stock exchange. Where the ANC alliance's plans call for the occupation of cities and towns, the only region so far really cut off comprises the Vaal triangle townships."

Pointing out that last weekend's mass-action projects were not well attended, R.W. Johnson, an academic commentator, declared, also in the *Sunday Times*, that a solid stayaway in this week's strike could be achieved only by frank and massive intimidation, which would make "a wholesale mockery of Mr Mandela's claim that the strike is a peaceful assertion of civil rights".

The combined forces of the ANC, the Confederation of South African Trade Unions and the Communist party are reckoned to be able to keep

three million blacks away from work. Last November 3.4 million stayed away in a protest against the imposition of VAT, but in the process more than 100 people died.

Seven United Nations observers flew into Jan Smuts airport yesterday to join two of Cyrus Vance's team, left behind when the UN special envoy flew home, and the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees mission here, who will all act as monitors during the week of action. Government officials expect them to stay on for an additional week to follow up any allegations of threats and intimidation that are made.

Of the ten monitors, three are from the United States, one from Japan, one from Portugal, and one from Guyana. Two Africans get the potentially unpleasant task of watching over the Witwatersrand and the Vaal triangle, one from Uganda and one from Nigeria, Joan Seymour, a Briton, has been given Cape Town.

Anniversary of Kuwait invasion

Boastful Iraq renews its claim to emirate

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ, brimming with confidence after its latest tussle with the West over weapons inspections, celebrated the second anniversary of its invasion of Kuwait yesterday with triumphal rhetoric and warning of a second takeover.

There was no official ceremony in Kuwait but, jittery after days of bellicose statements from Iraq, it marked the occasion with its armed forces on full alert and preparing for today's war games with American forces, whose presence has offered some reassurance.

"It will happen again, God willing," trumpeted a headline in *Babel* newspaper below a large front-page photograph of President Saddam Hussein praying on the Kuwait sea-

front with a devout expression. The picture was taken in October 1990, after the invasion, and showed Iraqi fortifications against an American amphibious assault in the background. Iraq's information ministry organised a two-day song and dance festival dramatising Iraq's claims to Kuwait with a 100-strong cast chanting: "Bush, listen with care, we all love Saddam Hussein".

The state-run *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper said: "It goes without saying Kuwait is part of Iraq. In the end, Kuwait will return to its rightful owners. How and when? History will answer." The defence newspaper, *al-Qadisiyah*, boasted that Iraqi forces were ready for another confrontation with

Western troops. While most Kuwaitis dismissed talk of another takeover as bluff and bravado, there were genuine fears that Saddam could hit out with surprise Scud missile attacks. Kuwaiti officials are convinced Iraq has managed to hide at least 100 of the missiles from the United Nations weapons inspectors. The United States has sent more of its Patriot missiles to Kuwait to counter the potential threat from Scuds.

This week 2,400 American troops will arrive for joint training with the Kuwaiti forces, in addition to two exercises with marines and troops already in the region which start today. Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, denied Iraqi accusations that the American deployment was provocative and said the joint military exercises, involving some 5,000 American troops, were to underline Washington's commitment to Kuwait's security.

"This notion that somehow this is designed to be a provocative act I put over there in the category with their claim in recent days that Kuwait is part of Iraq," Mr Cheney said. Crown Prince Shaikh Saad al-Abdallah al-Sabah of Kuwait said the government had an emergency plan "to confront all possibilities and circumstances". He gave no details, but as well as military preparations, the plan is likely to include a diplomatic offensive to win Iraq's compliance with UN ceasefire resolutions. Eight hundred Kuwaitis are still missing in Iraq since the Gulf war and Baghdad has also rejected a new border with Kuwait drawn up by a UN commission.

Iraqi television last night completed a series it called *Mirage and Reality* which it said would prove beyond doubt that Kuwait was part of Iraq until British colonialists separated them while carving up the Ottoman empire after the first world war. Kuwaitis have watched the series with a mixture of fascination and horror.

Kurdish split halts Saddam's illicit border oil trade

Turkish lorry drivers have fallen victim to fighting among Kurdish guerrilla groups, Andrew Finkel writes from Istanbul

INTIMIDATION of lorry drivers hauling supplies and diesel oil between Turkey and Iraq has halted the curious border trade which provides both supplies for President Saddam Hussein and revenue for those Kurds who oppose his regime. The action, by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), has brought closer the possibility of internecine fighting between the different Kurds of the Middle East.

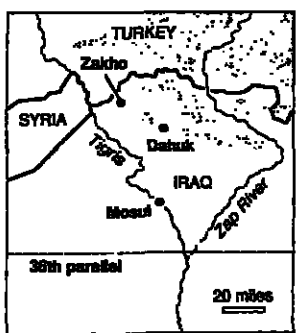
Queues of Turkish lorries, once miles long and two abreast, are now thinning at the northern Iraqi border town of Zakho. This is as a result of a warning from the PKK that those violating an embargo will be killed and their cargoes destroyed. The party is angry that the Iraqi Kurdistan Front has sided with Ankara in trying to deny it access to the mountainous frontier where it conducts a guerrilla campaign against Turkey.

The warning to Turkish firms, many of them owned and operated by ethnic Kurds, was reinforced just over a week ago when three lorries were hijacked and burnt. Reports from the area say the only traffic now consists of drivers returning to Turkey.

The Kurdistan Front complains that the PKK is trying to forbid villagers, who were forcibly deported from the border during the last two decades, from returning to rebuild their homes. A communiqué issued by its representatives in Ankara accuses the PKK of robbing, kidnapping and murdering people who survived Saddam's atrocities.

It is, however, the de facto closure of the Turkish border that will spell real disaster for the mass of Iraqi Kurds who already face an economic blockade mounted by Baghdad from the south. The closure will help to convince waverers in the PKK in favour of a Turkey whose motives they suspect.

Kurdish leaders have for



some time realised that they have little option but to court the one country which links them dependably to the outside world. Turkey has emphasised that dependence in a year-long series of air raids against PKK targets in Iraqi Kurdistan areas that have also claimed civilian casualties. The party now appears to be answering with its own counter-intimidation.

However, the PKK will itself win few friends by halting the one successful bit of commerce in a part of the world still paying the price for the international sanctions imposed on Iraq at the time of the Gulf war.

Although the destination of most of the Turkish lorries was Mosul, a city under Iraqi control, the Kurdistan Front was able to extract a levy on each load, which remained its principal source of revenue. In addition, enough supplies remained in the Kurdistan north to help offset the effects of the blockade which the Iraqi government has sustained since last October.

Lorry drivers would deliver a load for free in return for the ability to smuggle back across the border huge quantities of diesel oil in makeshift tin reservoirs strapped to the undercarriage. The Turkish government, desperate to regenerate the economy of the southeast, connived at the practice. In essence, it was an unofficial application of United Nations security resolution 706 which allows Iraq a limited sale of oil in exchange for humanitarian relief.



Model choice: Amy Kleinhans, a 24-year-old model from Cape Town, smiles after being crowned Miss South Africa at Sun City in nominally independent Bophuthatswana. She is the first Coloured woman to win the beauty pageant. She shrugged off pre-contest

claims that she would win because the time was right for a non-white to represent South Africa. "The controversy that surrounded me because of my skin colour means nothing. I will ignore it and be a great ambassador for South Africa," she said. (AFP)

Palestinian police plan surprises Israel

RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN leaders are drawing up plans for the formation of a 20,000-30,000 strong police force that would maintain law and order in the Israeli-occupied territories during the process leading to Palestinian self-rule.

The ambitious idea, which was greeted with surprise by the Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin, and with horror by the right-wing Israeli opposition, was tabled this weekend in discussions in Amman between Palestinians and Jordanians. "We are holding many discussions with the Jordanian authorities on various aspects of government, one of them being co-operation on the formation of a Palestinian police force," said Saeb Erekat, a member of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. Discussions were believed to have centred round a proposal that future officers would receive three months' police training in Jordan before starting their duties in the territories.

Although the Camp David accords of 1979 stipulate the formation of a local police force in the demilitarised territories, the size and possible membership of the constabulary as currently envisaged by the Palestinians would probably be rejected by Israel. Ephraim Sneh, a Labour MP and former military governor, yesterday supported the principle of local law enforcement by armed Palestinian officers. But he added that the "background and past of these people will require serious review" and that the police unit should not become "an army under a different name". He appeared to be voicing concerns among many Israelis, particularly Jewish settlers, that the activists and gunmen of the infatigable could become the police officers of a Palestinian autonomous region.

Yesterday a Palestinian from Fatah, the mainstream wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was killed and three Israeli soldiers wounded in a gun battle in the occupied Gaza Strip.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Return of boat people called off

Hong Kong: The government of Hong Kong admitted at the weekend that a supposedly voluntary repatriation flight of boat people to Hanoi had to be abandoned after a group of Vietnamese began a protest on the airport tarmac (Jonathan Braude writes).

One man slashed his chest with a sharpened toothbrush and hit his head against a metal bar. Two others dropped their trousers and shouted and struggled in protest. The demonstration came as Asia Watch, the US-based human rights group, claimed that Hong Kong's refugee-screening procedures were seriously flawed and appealed to Hong Kong and Britain to protect two groups of Vietnamese who face persecution if they are sent home against their will.

Bernard Levin, page 10

Rain deaths

Karachi: Monsoon rains killed at least 23 people in southern Pakistan, bringing the death toll to 58, government officials said. Most of the deaths were caused by collapsing mud houses, drowning and electrocution. (Reuters)

Plane 'hit wall'

Peking: The Chinese airliner that crashed on Friday, killing at least 106 people, veered off the runway and hit a retaining wall before shattering and catching fire, the New China news agency said. Investigators had located the aircraft's "black box" flight recorder, it added. (Reuters)

Car bomb

Caracas: A car bomb explosion in the Apure state of Venezuela killed four policemen as they returned to their base. No group has admitted responsibility for the attack in a remote region on the Colombian border 550 miles from Caracas. (Reuters)

Police attacked

Brazzaville: Congolese went to the polls in the first round of presidential elections as dozens of young demonstrators demanding identity cards to enable them to vote attacked a police station here. The second round is scheduled to be held on August 16. (AFP)

Fatal crash

Norfolk: A US Navy twin-engine plane on a training flight crashed in the Atlantic 75 miles north of Puerto Rico, killing all five people on board. It was the second plane from the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy to crash in two weeks. (AFP)

Snake victim

Vancouver: Larry Moor, 45, a Vancouver snake handler who founded a group to dispel fear and misunderstanding of snakes among Canadians, was bitten by his Egyptian cobra and died before he could be taken to hospital, police said. (AP)

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Ben Macintyre

Video game turns nasty for amateur cameraman

The build-up to the Los Angeles riots began on videotape, with the beating by Los Angeles police officers of black motorist Rodney King, but the aftermath is also bound up with the same medium.

One of the amateur cameramen who filmed the riots using a hand-held video camera has had to go into hiding after being subpoenaed to testify at the trial of three men accused of the savage beating during the riots of Reginald Denny, a white lorry driver.

Privately shot film has become key evidence for government prosecutors attempting to bring charges against those involved in the rioting, looting and arson that followed the acquittal of police officers in the Rodney King case. Investigators are studying 329 videotapes.

Some of the most revealing of these belong to Timothy Goldman, a 33-year-old ama-

teur video buff, who on April 29 filmed much of the rioting round his home in south-central LA. Mr Goldman is now reportedly being forced by prosecutors to identify the people on his films. "The attorney told me they might try to use me as a witness to what was going on and have me try to finger people," he told *The New York Times*.

In the still volatile atmosphere of south-central LA, that prospect is hardly enticing. The three men accused of beating Reginald Denny, who is still in hospital recovering from serious head injuries, and a fourth man accused of picking his pocket as he lay unconscious at an intersection, have become a symbol of resistance for some in the black community, and it is feared that their trial may spark further demonstrations and violence.

Mr Goldman says he has already received threats and has gone into hiding. "There

are a lot of people out there that blame me for a lot of the arrests," he declared. "I have taken my own measures to secure myself... no one in my family knows where I live."

While television companies have been able to resist giving up riot footage under laws that protect the privacy of professional journalists, private citizens have no such protection. Mr Goldman's skills as an amateur cameraman have placed him in the unenviable position of a key prosecution witness, but they have also made him a considerable amount of money. Through an agent he has marketed his footage to a variety of news organisations, earning tens of thousands of dollars.

On the other hand George Holliday, the plumber whose video of Rodney King's beating prompted the case against the Los Angeles police in the first place, sold

his rights for a paltry \$500 (£260).

America's obsession with "family values" and single motherhood has taken a religious turn, with a strange scriptural dispute between the Rev Jesse Jackson and Cardinal John O'Connor, head of the Roman Catholic Church in New York.

In his speech earlier this month at the Democratic convention, Jesse Jackson referred to the Virgin Mary as a "single mother", a statement Cardinal O'Connor says has been "deeply wounding to millions of Catholics". Mr Jackson was responding to an even more fanciful remark made by Dan Quayle, the vice-president, in which he criticised Murphy Brown, a fictional character from a television soap opera, for deciding to have a child out of wedlock. "Mary is the mother of God," Cardinal O'Connor writes in this week's edition of *Catholic New York* maga-

zine. "Joseph was her lawful husband. Together they 'parented' the child Jesus, conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit, fathered by God Himself."

For those who have always suspected that there was more nutrition in a breakfast cereal packet than the cereal itself, support comes from researchers at Ohio State University who claim that fibre in cattle food can be efficiently substituted by one of those little plastic scourers for cleaning pots and pans.

Scientists say the stimulation caused by fibre which allows food to be more easily absorbed can be replicated in cows by persuading them to swallow a small, woven plastic plate-scrubber. In tests the cattle were fed the plate scrubber in soluble tape. The treated cattle put on more weight than those fed on high-fibre diets of hay.

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Is it the end of politics?

Peter Riddell asks how much power the Tories can afford to give away

The government has a new slogan, "the end of politics". John Patten gave the game away last week at the news conference to launch his education white paper. The aim, he said, was to "depoliticise" education by removing it from the local political arena and giving power to parents and governors.

That is not the only example. Transferring the management of public housing to housing associations and housing action trusts is intended to take the politics out of housing management. The split between purchasers and providers in the health service has replaced politically directed allocation of resources. Privatisation has also meant that utilities which were in theory publicly accountable are now answerable mainly to semi-independent regulators, rather than to politicians. The Next Steps initiative, with its creation of semi-independent executive agencies, has further strained the conventions of accountability to ministers, and to parliament. Politicians are out; market forces and regulators are in.

Taking the politics out of something is always an appealing populist slogan, guaranteed to win a round of applause on *Any Questions?* It implies that a matter is being removed from grubby, self-serving politicians, that rational, dispassionate judgments will now be applied. Many decisions probably will be better made without politicians.

Schools will become more directly accountable to parents and governors; housing management will be better conducted away from town halls; hospitals will be run better by themselves; and utilities will be more efficient when managers are no longer dependent on Whitehall.

But it is a fallacy to assume that all these areas can be removed from politics altogether. That confuses management and policy. Decisions still have to be taken on the aggregate level of spending on schools or hospitals, and their organisation. These remain inherently political decisions, as has recently been recognised by the cabinet in setting up a new committee chaired by Norman Lamont to allocate resources between competing bids.

The government's assumption is that there need be no intervening political stage between cabinet decisions and school governing bodies or local housing associations. Despite all the talk of a new partnership with local authorities, many Tories believe that councils should have only a marginal role in deciding levels of provision. That means more centralism. The Tories are seeking to redefine pluralism. Instead of the traditional view of political pluralism based on intermediary institutions, such as local councils — Burke's little platoons — there will be a market-based pluralism. Diversity is to be achieved by devolving managerial control to schools and hospitals and treating patients and parents as customers.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The terms of the political debate are being changed; to entrench the changes in the health service, education, housing and public utilities by treating them as market and individual decisions, rather than political decisions. Martin Jacques, editor of the now defunct *Marxism Today*, whose present views are impossible to classify, argues that decisions have moved beyond the parties and the conventional political arena. Society, he suggests, "will be driven by a myriad of institutions from ICI and the Body Shop to Friends of the Earth, BSkyB and trust hospitals. Government's job more and more will be to preside over a society whose motor lies elsewhere and to negotiate as and when with the institutions that make things happen. Politics will be about administration; society will be where the action is and the imagination lies."

'The debate in the 1990s will be whether Labour can regain ground the Tories have taken out of politics'

campaign, John Smith asserted the primacy of community over markets. The Tories, he argued, saw self-regulated markets as making decisions for the community, which must then live with the consequences. "It is an attempt to replace democratic and accountable decision-taking by the unseen hand of market forces. But this attempt to take the politics out of politics will not succeed — because it naively assumes that markets never fail — and it overlooks the power of vested interest."

The economy apart, the heart of the political debate during the 1990s will be whether the Labour party can regain some of the ground which the Tories have successfully taken out of politics since 1979. Labour will only win the intellectual initiative if it can persuade voters that there are community interests which require collective action. Gordon Brown and Tony Blair have sought to provide a popular, even populist, theme with an attack on vested interests in both the public and private sectors.

The battle over what should be in politics will not be as easily resolved as the Tories hope. John Patten is right to believe that most parents want to avoid the political fads and prejudices that bedevilled inner-city schools in the 1970s and early 1980s. But that does not mean that education can be taken out of politics. The focus will shift from the local education authorities to the proposed Funding Agency for Schools, and to Mr Patten himself.

A new ruse for introducing the young to literature has limits, writes Matthew d'Ancona

Letter from Hamlet

the breakfast table? "Dear Hillary. Your mother said you might like me to write to you. I am so pleased to have someone to tell my thoughts and experiences to, as I get lonely here at times. My name is Douglas. I am 16 years old and servant to the lord Macbeth."

Children with the kind of parents who fret about their reading habits will be finding out very soon, if a new venture called the Classic Correspondence Society gets off the ground. The idea is to ease children into great literature by sending them personalised letters written by characters from a masterpiece. Every week for almost a year a fresh instalment arrives from the literary pen-pal, taking the child a little bit further into the tale.

At long last, the likes of Ophelia, Mr Rochester and Fanny Price will have a chance to put their side of the story to the younger generation. But how would this letter to your teenage daughter go down at

usually scorned as a mark of cultural impoverishment, a sign that television and Nintendo have finally won the battle for young hearts and minds. Yet potboilers, crabs and abridgements are nothing new. Short guides to Dante's *Divine Comedy* had appeared before the Tuscan poet's death, and classroom recitations have been plied with Charles and Mary Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare* since the 19th century. More recently, the Joycean scholar Peter Costello has produced a fact-by-fact account of Leopold Bloom's day for those daunted by the revolutionary style of *Ulysses*.

The really odd thing is that letters should be considered a way of making literature easy — a mistake that well-meaning educationists have made before. The old O-level English syllabus often used to include daft questions such as: "You are the doctor at Macbeth's castle. Write a letter to your wife about all the fuss." Or: "Imagine

you are Caliban. Write a letter to a friend about the newcomers on the island." I suppose the intention was to give the less-able examinee a soft option.

But the truth is that letter-writing is not an easy craft — which is one reason that it has yielded place so quickly to the telephone, telex and fax. However mundane in content or conversational in style, letters are full of nuance, perilously bridging the gap between private and public, always allowing the possibility that posterity will catch a glimpse of our most intimate thoughts.

"We want to confess ourselves in writing to a few friends," wrote T.S. Eliot in 1933. "[But] we do not always want to feel that no one but those friends will ever read what we have written." So to treat letters as a beginners' version of something else — great literature — is to belittle a form that has its own idiom, ritual and capacity to surprise. A trawl through the *Faber Book*

of Letters illustrates the point that letters can be the most revealing and charming of sources. Sir Philip Sidney gets tough with his father's secretary, assuring him "that if ever I know you do so much as reads any letter I write to my Father... I will thrust it to my Father's face." Coleridge laudably to William Godwin that "business has, and has always, one unpleasant effect — that of making me talk very extravagantly". Hazlitt on his deathbed begs an editor for £10. And G.K. Chesterton, lost on his way to a lecture, informs his wife: "Am in Market Harborough. Where ought I to be? These are gems plucked from the strange limbo that lies between secrecy and confession."

Perhaps the Classic Correspondence gimmick — letters as literary soundbites — will stoke the fires of a few minds here and there, beckoning them toward the original texts. But a better idea would be to rekindle children's interest in the lost art of letter-writing, a genre they can explore and make their own. For in each literary person there is surely a Roxanne waiting to hear from Cyrano. Or a Romeo longing to post a letter to Verona.

Willing dupes of the dragon

Bernard Levin reminds Mr Patten of the facts of Chinese life

Mr Han Dongfang, as his name suggests, is Chinese. Mr Christopher Patten, as his names implies, is British. A meeting would be very interesting.

For instance, Mr Patten might speak of the unhappiness he felt, though bore with dignity, when he lost his parliamentary seat, while Mr Han can describe his own unpleasant sensation, no less shrugged off, when a long spike was deliberately driven right through his hand and raked back and forth in the wound.

Then again, Mr Patten — and who could blame him? — might well have found, in the pain of defeat, that for many hours he could not touch food, however succulent; relating this to Mr Han, Mr Patten would be very interested to learn of the occasion — well, it was more than an occasion, actually, it lasted a year — when his unchanging daily diet was half a bowl of vegetable soup and two cornmeal buns.

Oh, there are many more comparisons. I assure you, Mr Patten, like most of us, must have sometimes fumed at British Rail when there was not a seat to be had. Back comes Mr Han, with something of a smile — only something of one — revealing that for the whole of the year that diet he was crammed into a tiny prison cell with many companions, night and day (longer, for sure, than the longest train journey ever), without bed or bedding of any kind.

Then, again, think of the strain of an election campaign: Mr Patten was lucky not to come down with flu. Mr Han was unlucky to come down with a much more serious ailment, to which he had been deliberately exposed.

Yes, yes, old Bernard's banging on again about Hong Kong. Mr Han Dongfang is a Chinese citizen; he was in Tianmen Square throughout the murders



but survived. There followed prison, torture, hunger-strike, more prison, and illness with medication denied. He is still only 28 years old. For the moment he is out of prison, followed of course wherever he goes. His courage beggars description: as soon as he got out he formally applied for permission to hold an anti-government rally.

And if there is no change of plan, 5.5 million men, women and children will be handed over, as Chinese citizens, to the state that does such things to its people. These 5.5 million human beings, I must remind you, were British; our government simply stole their passports and offered the human beings to China, though (as I must remind you again) China had not demanded they be given up.

And how did the prime minister, called upon to comment, meet the challenge? These were his words: "It is one of the government's highest priorities to manage the transition to 1997 so as to safeguard Hong Kong's freedom, stability and prosperity." What was going through his mind when he spoke those amazing words? Take a moment to speculate.

While you are doing so, I will

remind you that no such safeguards are, or could ever be, available to the betrayed people of Hong Kong. Whenever I say that, some dim backbencher is put up to recite the Foreign Office mantra: the Chinese authorities will not brutalise, oppress or rob the people of our colony because doing so would not be to their advantage. If I may be more than ordinarily offensive, I have to say that it was not to the advantage of Hitler to murder all the Jews; nevertheless, the silly fellow preferred ideology to pragmatism. But you have had time to do your speculating.

It would be nice if we could skip the dim backbencher and ask two questions directly of the prime minister: after all, he's got himself into this, and ought to be given the chance of getting out of it. The first question is: if, however high your priorities are, even if they are — ooooh, enormously high — what happens if the Chinese dictatorship, at the moment of the hand-over (or, indeed, before) announces that it has no intention of safeguarding Hong Kong's freedom, stability and prosperity?

Yes, yes, of course nice Mr Major hopes that nothing like that will happen; so do I. But exactly what, or even roughly what, will he or can he do about it? No wriggling; we are assuming that the "advantage" argument has failed: what does he do?

The second question is more pertinent, and I think is impossible to get round. The prime minister seeks to safeguard Hong Kong's freedom — he used the word — after the transition. The question is this: what is the meaning of the word "freedom" in a communist state, even a communist state less savage and ruthless than the Chinese one? And if the answer is, as it must be, that the word has no meaning at all, what light does it throw on the prime minister's claim that he seeks safeguards for Hong Kong's freedom when he knows that no such safeguards exist or can exist?

After the end of the second world war, a terrible crime was committed by the victorious Allies — a series of crimes, really. Hundreds of thousands of people, some of whom had fought against the Allies, but many more who were merely refugees of all kinds,

and many who had fought on our side, were sent to a terrible fate in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The cries of those unfortunate still echo: books galore, mock-trials, libel actions, all these have awoken the dead. These people were sold into the bondage of communism, and it is to that system that we, Britain, are going to deliver 5.5 million souls, whom we tricked out of their future.

When I write about Hong Kong, I get many letters from readers all saying what amounts to, "What can I do? What can I do?"

And I cannot tell them. Nobody who could help to promote my solution — a worldwide international conference to share out the refugees — has shown any interest. The new governor of Hong Kong can act only as his government directs. Letters to MPs will not be worth the price of the stamp. Shame is unknown in the Foreign Office. The Duke of Edinburgh thinks they all have silly eyes.

A meeting between Governor Patten and Mr Han Dongfang would be an exceptionally interesting one. If it ever comes to pass, may I be present?



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Just as vaccination — by dipping the child's toe in the fever — protects the adult from the full-blown malady, so does education — by exposing us too early to a little of our culture, badly taught — trigger in us a resistance to touching it in later life. School is where a child's mind is closed to further artistic or intellectual encounter.

Whose stupid idea was it to make me read D.H. Lawrence when I was 17? I still have my A-level copy of *The Rainbow*, with "boring", "zzzz", and "yuk" inked into its many intense and obscure passages.

And Lawrence's poems meant so little, then. To a boy's mind they were hardly poetry at all. Our English teacher invited us to appreciate a poem about a snake, whose first lines as I recall started, "A snake came to my waterhole, to drink / And I in pygamas for the heat". I remember considering this quite ridiculous. And I have lost my copy. But its sense lingers: that the poet felt at first fearful of the snake's presence and drove it away, but then reflected that he had been somehow honoured by the visit; and felt ashamed at his action. It was a wonderful poem.

And I, in my jersey for the chill, am no poet; or this would be my Lawrencean moment. Some bees have come to my office door, to live.

I know nothing about bees. We did T.S. Eliot but not biology at school. I have been stung by Eliot and hate him. Having never been stung by a bee, I

remain open-minded towards their tribe, and interested. Now I am learning all about them.

It must have happened last week when I was away. In Derbyshire I use the top floor of a barn as a sort of office. A thick stone doorway is closed by two doors: an old wooden outer door, and an inner door, glass framed with wood. Shut, they sandwich between them a man-sized space the thickness of the wall.

Arriving yesterday I threw open the outer barn door. There was a furious buzzing. To my horror a chunk of something alive dropped to the flagstone, its components writhing. They were bees. A swarm the size and shape of a motorcyclist's helmet, but upside down, hung from the stone lintel inside the outer door. Bits of the helmet had become attached to the door and, torn away, dropped to the ground. The remaining structure now swayed precariously and buzzed, but it held.

I stared, frozen for a moment, then ran, then stopped. I edged cautiously back and stood a few yards away, scrutinising. Bees were bees. The remaining face of the swarm, I approached closer. Still no hostility. Gingly, but humming a confident little tune, I unlocked the inner door, one eye on the bees, slid into my office and shut the door. Now I could inspect them point-blank through the glass door. Fascinating! A hemisphere, solid with bees, hung from the stone quivering. On closer inspection the surface

was alive, as bees crawled over one another. And the weight of the whole thing was apparently supported by the bees at the top, standing upside down, stuck on somehow by their legs. Was this the start of a hive?

I telephoned my brother Roger who studied molecular science and would presumably know about bees. He told me I had a swarm. I told him I'd rather thought that I had counted how many bees it took to encircle the outer surface and Roger calculated there were 14,578.5 bees in the swarm. This, he said, was probably not going to be a nest or not there anyway. It was likely to be a new colony. Voortrekker bees so to speak, leaving the old hive with a rebel queen who had escaped the reigning queen's attempts to kill her. How unlike the home life of our own dear Queen! The rebel troops were mustering at my office while scouts went out in search of a permanent place to live. Their queen would be right at the centre of the swarm, keeping warm.

I just felt terribly honoured. Yes, I am a little nervous of them; but I am not going to knock them down with a stick or try to smoke them out. They may stay as long as they wish. Only my bravest friends will enter my office, and I shall watch the bees through the glass, their host and protector.

Perhaps they will call their hive after me? I am so proud. Thank you, Mr Lawrence, for the steel!

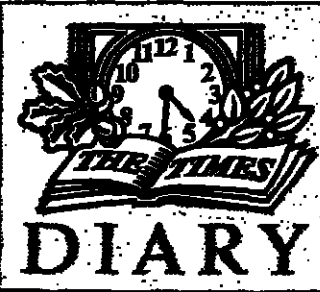
Boarding party at Cowes

THERE IS much relief among the sailing and partying fraternity gathered on the Isle of Wight this week for Cowes that the Wight Rock Ball, one of the more glittering fixtures of the season, is safe, albeit in a more modest form. Speculation, however, continues over the club itself. Castle Rock, one of the world's leading yacht clubs, formerly home to the Royal Corinthians, is in receivership and talk among the 120 exiles at tomorrow night's black tie bash is likely to centre on who will emerge the successful bidder.

Gossip among eminent yachters suggests that a syndicate led by the Corinthians' admiral Pat Dyas, and including John Thomson, chairman of the eponymous chocolate chain, could still succeed in buying back the £750,000 clubhouse overlooking Cowes harbour. There was also a whisper this weekend that John Aspinall is taking an interest. But John Whitehead, general manager of Castle Rock's parent group, Crusader Holdings, says there are at least five interested parties still hoping to purchase the building. "At least one of those is also interested in Wex Cowes Marina," he said. "I would expect there to be someone in situ at the club within 12 weeks."

Castle Rock is not the only sign of recession at Cowes. Fewer of the eye-popping mega-yachts have made the trip this year, and because Land Rover has subsidised racing fees to encourage less-wealthy competitors, there has been a proliferation of more modest inshore day boats.

Some things never change, however. The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward are competing in Yeoman XXVIII. Sir Owen Aisher's boat, and the Princess Royal is expected to hot-foot it back from



Barcelona before the week is up. A healthy quota of royals will be at the traditional Royal Yacht Squadron Ball tonight. But while the smart parties remain the exclusive domain of the rich and famous, this is the year for mere mortals to have a crack at the racing.

Among those mourning the death of Lord Cheshire is a community of Catholicism monks at a secret retreat in southern England. The monks regularly welcomed the RAF hero, who converted to Catholicism in 1948, and it was while he was with them last year that he prepared his last Remembrance day speech, thought by many to be his finest.

Maxwell nous

THE entrepreneurial spirit is thriving in Oxfordshire. The organisers of the annual cricket match between the villages of Ipsden and Hailey hit upon the idea of charging £50 a time to photographers wanting to cover the match, and they raised £250 yesterday. The star attraction was Kevin Maxwell, striding forth in cricket whites accompanied by his wife Pandora and their children. Maxwell, who has become a regular at the match bating for his home village of Hailey, was out for a duck but still enjoyed watching

his team romp home to victory. "It's a Sunday in the summer. Why not play cricket? I enjoy watching the England games as much as anyone," he said. As for the money-spinning activities of the organisers, Maxwell was unperturbed. "It's all in aid of the local village hall and the cricket pavilion," he said. "I had nothing to do with the arrangements." One cannot help feeling that his father would have approved.

Little big horn

IT MAY come as a surprise to learn that Esther Rantzen and Michael Parkinson are expecting a baby in a matter of days. No, not another cabloid scandal, merely the news that Esther, Chester Zoo's female black rhino, is extremely heavy with child by Michael. This poses certain problems for the keepers, who are not sure

I hope you'll accept my resignation.



when she will produce. Although the average gestation of the rhino is 401 days, this can vary by four weeks on either side. "She could give birth any time," says Chris Vere at the zoo. Staff had been hoping for an August 1 delivery to coincide with the 60th birthday of the zoo's director, Dr. Michael

Brambell. "We had been hoping to give him an extra present in the form of a baby rhino. If it's a boy it may still be named after him," says Vere.

Moo loo

THERE is something of the boy scout in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. Having saved the Canaletto for the nation, his latest good deed is to save his neighbours, and the environment, from the nasty side effects of his 150 cows. Sir Andrew has applied to Bathingstoke council for permission to dig two ponds on his Hampshire estate to control any effluent from his small herd. The project is likely to dent the Lloyd Webber fortune to the tune of £20,000. The neighbours will be pleased to hear that there is no problem with pollution at the moment. But in true Baden-Powell tradition Sir Andrew is determined to be prepared for all eventualities. A spokesman for the composer says he wants the ponds built at Woodside Farm, Sydmonion, in case there were difficulties in future, such as a flash flood. Music to a countryman's ears.

Enzo Scotti, the Italian foreign minister who resigned last week after 25 days in office, a quick turnaround even by Italian standards, could easily have been the inspiration for Henry Kissinger's remark that he "was reluctant to discuss foreign policy with any Italian foreign minister in case it bored them". Scotti, however, managed to make his mark before moving on. Shown some English-language diplomatic papers on the Italian situation in Italy, he was heard wondering aloud whether "the West Bank" was a publicly or privately owned American institute of credit.



SAVE THE CHILDREN

In civil war, depravity knows no bounds. What monstrous perversion of the human spirit leads a sniper to open fire on a bus carrying orphaned children away from the slaughter in Sarajevo?

The world's conscience has long been dulled by all the atrocities perpetrated since Hitler's concentration camps were liberated. Almost routinely, the nightly news over the years has shown maimed bodies, putrefying corpses, the scars of torture and the panic of those about to be killed in Biafra, Vietnam, Somalia, El Salvador, Afghanistan and a score of other countries, where violence has broken whatever restraints civilisation places on man's behaviour. Nevertheless, the sight of women being felled by the shots of snipers, of children cowering in cellars, of unclaimed bodies floating in the streams of a European country is peculiarly sickening. Brutality in the Balkans has now so revolted Europe that few governments can continue washing their hands with the pusillanimous excuses for inaction voiced by Britain.

The calls for intervention are growing. Already Lord Owen and Paddy Ashdown are demanding air strikes against Yugoslav forces which refuse to stop fighting. In Austria even the normally pacifist Greens are adding their voice to calls by Erhard Busek, the vice-chancellor, for selective strikes on Serbs in Bosnia. The fighting is stirring up the same passions as the Spanish civil war. The difference is that while the ideology is more blurred, the immorality is more clear-cut. With the horrible truth of historical hindsight, the world now knows what ethnic cleansing means. People have seen before the pictures of women and children being rounded up at gunpoint. They know where the trains used to go. They have heard, in the flat courtroom testimony of old men brought to account, how nationalism perverts morality, how claims of ethnic superiority are used to condone barbarism.

Yet while the Serbs bear the brunt of responsibility for the fighting in Bosnia,

there is no easy line to be drawn between aggressors and victims. Even in Spain, such a distinction was probably too facile. Leaders of both Serbia and Croatia have been blinded by vendetta politics. Yesterday's elections in Croatia barely touched on the urgent need for more democracy and the morality of the war. Whoever comes to power, the chances are that Croatia will show itself less ready for the compromises needed for peace. And whatever the pious statements of Milan Panic, the Serbian-American prime minister, a complete transplant out of his depth in Belgrade, the decisions on the ground are being made by unaccountable warlords and their drunken militias.

International anguish is frustrated by the complexity of this conflict. There are no obvious military or political targets or tactics. Reaction runs from isolationism, as in Britain where the government sees nothing but electoral disaster from a Balkan entanglement, to a more activist push in France for the use of force to back humanitarian relief. The Americans come in waves. The UN-EC missions so far have fallen between all stools, and are in danger of merely prolonging the conflict. A blanket arms embargo denies the Bosnians the means to defend themselves; yet the logic of allowing the Serbs and Croats to complete their dismemberment of Bosnia and beginning talks after partition has been rejected.

The international political paralysis is reflected in the dithering over refugees. Certainly their exile should not be permanent, thus achieving the aims of ethnic cleansing. But neither should they be kept in permanent camps, like the Palestinians. People watching the catalogue of death each night know what the British government appears reluctant to accept: that orphans, children, widows, the aged, mixed-marriage couples and the victims of torture have a more pressing need than a political solution in their ravaged homeland: immediate shelter and the right to life.

HOME TRUTHS

Jitters about the Tory party conference are hitting the government early this year. Only Europe looks set to give ministers more trouble than the economy, in particular the state of the slump-hit housing market. Home ownership lay at the core of the Conservative philosophy that swept the party to power in 1979 and kept it there in the 1980s: the right to buy and the huge expansion of home ownership were seen as the essential weapons to woo the skilled working class away from allegiance to Labour. The very success of that policy now threatens to rebound upon the government. In many areas house price falls of up to 30 per cent have been reported, and with interest rates high and unemployment climbing, some 300,000 mortgagees are more than six months in arrears and another 35,000 have been turned out of their homes. Mild consternation among the voters that property prices could actually fall is fast giving way to panic, as millions find their homes worth less than they paid for them and no sign anywhere that prices have yet hit the bottom.

It has long been held that an Englishman's home is his tax haven, and a number of ingenious schemes are already being floated in Whitehall and among the big lenders to try to ease the pain. These palliatives include more help through the benefits system for mortgage payers who find their income cut, an increase in the lower limit of stamp duty, and the use of unspecified sums of public money to "pump-prime" building society plans to turn poorer borrowers into tenants. At the very least, this package may offer some hope to ministers forced to face the baying Tory representatives in Brighton this autumn. But that temptation should be resisted.

The housing market is already horribly distorted by subsidy. Tax relief on mortgage interest is worth about £900 a year to borrowers. This year's cynical pre-election

decision to suspend stamp duty to breathe new life into the market has failed, and will be unceremoniously wound up later this month. According to some estimates the government already spends some £18 billion subsidising housing. Another subsidy would only prolong the agony of a market correction. Already much of the subsidy goes to some of the richest parts of society. With public spending far too high, there can be no case for bailing out those who greedily believed that house prices could never fall. Tory nerves should be steadied by recent history. The housing market is going through one of its moments of correction. A huge inflation of prices in the late 1980s, when every middle-class dinner conversation was based on the premise that they could only go up, is like many parties, being paid for with a fearsome hangover. Unlike similar booms and busts in the mid-1970s and early 1980s this one is not cloaked by the deception of monetary inflation. It seems more painful; it probably isn't.

House prices will recover only slowly. Norman Lamont's absolute resistance to sterling devaluation means that the easy inflationary options of the past cannot be followed. The government has made up its mind that short-term pain will be forgotten over the long haul. Many factors, not least the British taste for divorce and small households, combined with savage restrictions on the building of new homes, will ensure that soon prices creep up again.

The worst political decisions are always taken in panic, and the government needs to keep its nerve through the summer. While it is generally dangerous to predict anything in such black arts as politics or economics, it is a safe bet that by the next general election most Tory voters will find their homes worth a lot more than they are today. Rightly or wrongly, and probably wrongly, an Englishman's home will remain his best investment.

CHARIOTS OF HOPE AND GLORY

Six hundredths of a second are an infinitesimally short time for most subliminal activities: the winking of an eye, the tap of a computer key, the slam of a door. But in the specialised business of world-class sprinting, it seems an age. This was the margin by which Linford Christie won the Olympic 100 metres at the weekend, an apparently leisurely stride and a half ahead of the other fastest men in the world from Africa and the Americas, straining and ducking towards the tape behind him in that far fierce split-second and sweat. In the long eye of history, West Africa has suffered more than most parts of the world from climate, plague, tribalism, civil war, colonialism, corruption, and incompetence. It is a welcome triumph that the fastest runners now come from there, directly or by inheritance.

The modest and engaging Christie, born in Jamaica but brought up in hard circumstances and in the face of some racial prejudice in West London, spoke handsomely yesterday about his English coaches. He confessed that as a child he wanted to be the fastest man on earth.

The title of fastest man on earth must be journalistic hyperbole. Somewhere in the world there may be some untold, inglorious sprinter who does not go in for competitive races, but runs like the wind. The American, Carl Lewis, holds the world record for the 100 metres, but he is not running at Barcelona because he had a virus on the day of the American Olympic trials, from which there is no appeal. And in miles per hour, the fastest man in the world is often the one running 200 metres, because he is running at top speed for longer: the record for 200 metres is usually less than twice the time for

the 100. Nevertheless, it is the 100 metres that is the cynosure of athletics, a word that in its Greek roots means a contest, and stands for testing the human body in competition to the limit. The race is over in less time than it takes ordinary mortals to do up their shoe-laces. Because of the fascination of simple arithmetic, the 100 yards, and then the 100 metres, gives runners a target of even time, 10 seconds, to break, simply because it is there, like Everest to climb.

Most ordinary mortals can identify with the shortest sprint, because they have all at some times in their lives run as fast as they could; whereas mercifully not everyone in the course of a normal life has to perform the more esoteric Olympic sports such as synchronised swimming or twirling on the asymmetric bars. The shortest race, which starts the Olympic track events, and the longest race, the marathon, which brings them to an end, from the beginning have had an archetypal attraction for bipeds.

Runners from Britain have won the fastest Olympic gold only twice before. Harold Abrahams in *Chariots of Fire* year, and Alan Wells in Moscow, when the Americans were sulking in their tents, like Achilles. It is no accident that Achilles himself, the first hero of Western literature, was famous for his sprinting, so that he is linked for all eternity to the stock epithet of fast runner. The urge to run faster than one's rivals is one of the fundamental human instincts. It may not be sophisticated or even always useful. But to run faster than all comers glorifies not just the runner and his country, but humanity itself. That is why those six hundredths of a second make even the most unathletic walk with a spring in their strides this morning.

'Wall of silence' on drug tests in sport

From Dr Martyn T. Lucking

Sir, The nation has been surprised and shocked by the revelation that three Olympic competitors tested positive for drugs in pre-games testing (report, July 31). Not so myself: I have been warning officials at the British Athletics Federation all year since the shot putter, Neil Brunning, was tested positive in indoor competition, that he was likely to be the tip of the iceberg.

The only way to begin to deter embolic drug abuse is by out-of-competition testing. That Brunning and Jason Livingstone in athletics are not deterred must indicate that insufficient out-of-competition testing is being done in the right places.

Six years ago, the whole drug-testing programme was thrown into disrepute by allegations of insider dealing. The Sports Council was appointed to take over all testing responsibility and, in the case of athletics, an independent liaison group of which I was a member (the Drug Advisory Committee) was established to liaise between the then British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) and the council. This was

principally to advise them both on the complexity of drug abuse in track and field athletics, to help in targeting likely abusers, to trace and to chase itinerant athletes.

With the British Athletics Federation (BAF) taking over from the old BAAB this committee has gradually become defunct. I have been seeking information from BAF officials about out-of-competition testing and absences for 2½ years now and have had minimum response. Many questions are left unanswered.

It seems to me that if the BAF and whatever drug advisory committee there now is have nothing to hide, they should be glad to disseminate information about testing in every respect. The virtual wall of silence makes me highly suspicious.

All is not well with drugs testing in British athletics. Maybe another ministry-initiated shake-up is due.

Yours faithfully,
MARTYN LUCKING,
St Mary's Surgery,
467 Lytham Road,
Blackpool, Lancashire.
July 31.

Man on a golden bike

From Mrs Sandra Lewin

Sir, I wonder if any newspapers in other countries have ever been as negative as *The Times* in writing about their Olympic champions (leading article, July 30).

If the world champion, Jens Lehmann, was so generous in saying he thinks Chris Boardman would have won the gold medal without a superior machine, why on earth could you not have said the same?

Yours faithfully,
SANDRA LEWIN,
3 Bourne End Road,
Northwood, Middlesex.

From Mr David Stockill

Sir, I am glad that Chris Boardman caught his opponent in the Olympic cycling pursuit final, since it showed the television audience that Lehmann's machine was of a similar (if less advanced) "space age" technology as Boardman's.

Travellers' rights

From Mr Christopher Clark, QC

Sir, Last year, over 7,000 travellers arrived without warning to hold an impromptu, summer solstice festival on an ancient "greenway" in this village. The festival lasted a week. Had the police not mounted roadblocks, the numbers attending could have reached the proportions of the Castlemorton gathering last May.

During the course of the week local residents felt under siege. Nuisance, damage and ecological disturbance were widespread; with no sanitation of any kind, the public health risk was enormous. Afterwards, the vast majority of local residents were adamant they never wanted to experience such a nightmare again.

Is that being unreasonable? If you are right ("Let them travel", leading article, July 29) such objections should be subordinated to the individual's freedom to travel and to stay for as long as one likes, and to be joined by as many other people as care to come.

A properly organised and licensed festival is one thing. A mass invasion of private or common land is very different.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CLARK,
Halfway Cottage, Longstock,
Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Trees and rainfall

From Sir H. Charles Pereira, FRS

Sir, Professor Mowbray's letter (July 27) claims that the climatic consequences of deforestation have been poorly presented and poorly understood. Sadly, in spite of commendable enthusiasm for environmental improvement, his letter contributes to the misconception of the role of forests.

Satellite images of clouds have improved understanding of weather systems, while effective instrumentation of the flows of energy and of water vapour has quantified the role of forests. Rainfall regimes are produced by weather systems which are orders of magnitude larger than forestry plantations. Only the vast forests of the Amazon and the Congo have the scale to increase rainfall, and even then the difference between

the victory was Chris Boardman's, not his bicycle or the inventors of it (all credit to them notwithstanding). Well done, Chris.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID STOCKILL,
5 Fountain Court,
Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.
July 30.

From Mr C. Clayton

Sir, Chris Boardman's achievements, particularly over the last four months in open events, made it clear that, even without the new bike, we had a potential gold medalist.

It saddens me that once again a great British achievement is analysed to the detriment of the athlete and all the supporters who have made it possible.

Yours faithfully,
C. CLAYTON,
41 Northfield Close, South Cave,
Brough, North Humberside.
July 30.

From Mr Iain C. Baillie

Sir, Brought up in the country in Scotland, we were used to the "tinklers". Small groups, they stayed in areas which had become acceptable by tradition, undertook temporary work locally so as to provide useful services and any depredations were "mass" encampments, despite the objections of the owners of the properties. To equate this tolerance with acceptance of "mass" encampments, despite the objections of the owners of the properties, is nonsense.

The figure of 20,000 indicates, in itself, that we are dealing with an entirely different problem. The tinker's role in our society cannot justify accepting a ravaging mob who totally ignore the rights of others.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN C. BAILLIE,
20 Chester Street, SW1.

From Mr John Bartlett

Sir, Could it be the proliferation of hippies trespassing on an innocent farmer's land having their social security forms delivered to them that causes the queues of hard-working taxpayers outside the Passport Office (Mr Creamer's letter, July 31)?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARTLETT,
105 Leeds Road,
Rawdon, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

tail rain forest and cleared land is estimated at about 20 per cent.

Where forests once stood they were evidence for rainfall regimes capable of sustaining them. When clearance has been followed by misuse of land, often by severe overgrazing, rainfall is lost by overland run-off, so that springs and wells may fail.

Tree-planting restores infiltration to recharge groundwater, but is not of a scale to affect annual rainfall. The planting of trees to supply fuelwood and to restore hydrological stability is indeed an admirable form of family relief, widely used in the food-for-work programmes of the UN World Food Programme, but such work should not be based on expectations of increases in rainfall.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PEREIRA,
Peartrees, Nestor Court,
Teston, Maidstone, Kent.

Tribunals at work

From Mrs Stella Hollis

Sir, David Pannick suggests ("Tribunals don't work", July 22) that industrial tribunals and employment appeal tribunals should not tolerate delay and that in important cases they should have the power to transfer proceedings to a High Court judge.

Once applications are lodged, delays in starting tribunals are almost invariably due to the parties themselves. They are not the fault of the system. Subsequent appeals to the employment appeal tribunal (a division of the High Court) are themselves subject to delay. Appeals are on point of law only and the appeal tribunal — comprising a judge and two lay members — is unable to make a contribution to developing the law. The really important cases already proceed upwards and even to Europe, five years later.

Nowadays most litigation takes time. Judges are enjoined to be patient and sensitive to litigants. Any reference to time-wasting is taken as a manifestation of bias. It is naive to expect that a change of forum will

reduce costs or time spent on these cases at the initial hearing. Tribunals have all the power they need "to focus on the essential points".

Yours sincerely,
STELLA HOLLIS,
Chairman, Industrial Tribunals,
London South Region,
93 Ebury Bridge Road, SW1.
July 22.

From Mrs Jill E. Andrew

Sir, David Pannick's conclusion that "improvements in tribunal procedures are essential" causes me concern. I take the view that procedural changes will be insufficient to remedy the problems of cost, delay and the proper administration of justice in employment disputes.

I have direct experience of this. I acted for the respondents in the longest-ever case to go before an industrial tribunal. The case involving dockers started in 1989, spanned nearly three years and took 197 days of hearing. This is now the subject of appeal and so is still unresolved. As in the recent Allison Halford case, there is no perception of justice having been seen to have been done.

Trumpeting the cause of London zoo

From Mr Gerald Durrell

Sir, I see, now that the fellows of the Zoological Society of London have called for the society's officers and council to quit (report, July 30), that the unfortunate pantomime at London zoo continues. This serves to remind me that I have not replied to the two letters in *The Times* on July 11 from Mr Mick Carman, a head keeper at the zoo, and Mr Hugh Clamp, an architect.

I agree with Mr Carman that the demise of London zoo would be terrible and a triumph for the anti-zoo brigade of fluffy-minded, so-called reformers, most of whom are ignorant of the biological plight facing animal life in the wild, and are unaware of the increasing importance of zoos in saving wildlife. Should London zoo disintegrate and they turn their attentions to Jersey, I am more than ready for them.

Mr Carman says that the society has been and is involved in all sorts of conservation projects with breeding rare species in captivity and, more important still, helping species in the wild. We of the zoo fraternity know this, but nobody else seems to. It would appear that the society is ill served by its publicity department.

The work we do in Jersey is known world wide, but only because of our relentless publicity. It is no use hoping people will find out for themselves. You have to tell them what you are going to do, do it, and then tell them what you have done, and then boast.

Mr Clamp's letter is, of course, music to my ears — the mournful howl of an architect betrayed. However, I think he misses the point that I was trying to make. The buildings he mentioned (all built in the early 1800s, you note) are well built and elegant. They may not have been suitable for their inmates but, judged purely from an architectural point of view, they have style and a certain beauty, qualities gravely lacking in later monstrosities which, as well as being unsuitable for the animals, managed to attain an ugliness that was unbelievable.

The Snowdon aviary looks like a severely bombed aircraft hangar. The elephant house (if I may be permitted to use Sidney Smith's description of the Brighton Pavilion) "looks as though St Paul's has been there and pupped".

This is, of course, what I call anthropomorphic architecture. Either the building is designed by one architect to please his fellow architects or to please the public, who like to think the animal likes space. Of course it does — the right sort of space.

'Fly-in' village

From Mr Michael Jefferson

Sir, There could be no better reason to hasten the introduction of pricing and taxes to cover adverse environmental impacts than the proposal to build a first "fly-in" village near Telford (report, July 29). To be able to run a light aircraft at a cost "more affordable than a BMW or a Jaguar" demonstrates how costs can be distorted.

It would be astonishing if the Department of the Environment did not intervene: this cannot be regarded as a local issue. If a foretaste of the future, it will gravely exacerbate the problems caused by energy use.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JEFFERSON
(Director),
British Energy Association,
34 St James's Street, SW1.

Women priests

From the Chairman of The Prayer Book Society

Sir, Canon John Shepherd (letter, July 20) points to the fact that over the period during which 11 women were ordained to the priesthood, a dramatic drop took place in membership of the Episcopal Church in America.

It so happens that this decline also coincided with the introduction of trial liturgies, leading to the adoption of a controversial new prayer book. It would seem that the overthrow of tradition, far from attracting new adherents to the Church, drives supporters from it.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. A. KILMISTER,
Chairman, The Prayer Book Society,
St James's Park, London SW1.
Garlick Hill, EC4.

The tribunals when originally conceived, as David Pannick points out, were intended to provide a quick, cheap and non-legalistic forum in which employment disputes would be resolved. However, in their 20 years' existence, statutory employment law has developed beyond the stage where those objectives are realistically achievable.

This raises the basic question of whether we should finally recognise that the "hybrid" system offered by the tribunals is no system of justice and that the only way in which employment rights and liabilities can be satisfactorily resolved is through the main body of the judicial system or a properly constituted system of industrial courts.

Yours faithfully,
JILL E. ANDREW (Partner),
Masons (solicitors),
30 Aylesbury Street, EC1.

Business letters, page 17

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

It is odd how, in so many zoos, the architect is let free to roam without consulting anybody, least of all his conscience, if one can judge by the results. Of course, the last person to be consulted is the animal it is being built for, or the person whose job it is to look after it. This is the sort of thing that I object to, and have always done, in zoos throughout the world.

Mr Clamp may rest easy in his bed. I said, when interviewed by *The Times* (July 31): "Architects should be shot at birth". At least physically Mr Clamp has got past that stage.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD DURRELL,
Les Augres Manor,
Trinity, Jersey, CI.

From Mr John Campion

Sir, Yesterday, as a fellow of the Zoological Society of London, I went to what may be the last meeting dealing with the fate of our beloved zoo. I was struck by the hopelessly uncommercial, unfocused quality of the thinking.

London zoo has lost its way, unnerfed to impotence by the "politically correct" attitude to zoos. Conservation and other related ideals may provide a higher justification for zoos: but they are of little interest to the average punter, who wants animals and lots of 'em: I myself wanted to show my children a hyena but could not.

The average family is not fired by conservation — but you have to finance that out of the main attraction, and the main attraction has become so exiguous as to endanger the whole zoo enterprise.

Live animals in profusion exert a pull all their own: few will come to London zoo to see a static display with information films and a few carefully chosen examples. That is not a zoo: it is the exposition of a single idea and a dry one at that — once you've seen it, what is there to return for?

There are 2,056 fellows of the society, who contribute less than 1 per cent of its budget. I and one other fellow each pledged a yearly subscription of £1,000 if a thousand fellows, newly co-opted for the purpose if need be, could be found to do the same, in order to meet a current operating deficit of £1 million and to fund future projects when this is no longer needful.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CAMPION,
Craigmyle House,
Saint Felix School,
Southwold, Suffolk.
July 30.

Working the river

From the Chairman of the London Rivers Association

Sir, In your leader of July 23 you comment on "The Working Thames — an Agenda for Action", published by this association, as stating that riverside developments such as Butler's Wharf are preferable to functioning wharves. That is not quite what the LRA report suggests. The creation of an efficient and sustainable transport system is critical to the long-term future of London, its economy and the quality of life of its inhabitants. If this objective is to be realised, the river has to play a significant part in transferring both freight and passengers from the roads.

An average ship working on the Thames handles the equivalent cargo of around 40 juggernauts; it does so with considerably reduced levels of noise and air pollution, and consuming about 20 per cent of the energy used by road-based equivalents. Projections of trade patterns point to an increase in freight which will need to be brought into the capital.

It is not simply a question of more Butler's Wharf or a working river. If we are to avoid long-term damage to the economy of London we have no choice but to maximise use of the Thames. This requires careful planning to ensure that riverbank sites of strategic importance are safeguarded for transport purposes.

This association also promotes better access to the river for Londoners and visitors. Our report stresses the need for balanced development to maintain the rich diversity of the waterfront. A working river is a vital ingredient to that richness.

One has only to compare the bustling Greenwich waterfront with the dull riverside of the Isle of Dogs to see these two very different visions of the river. Paris has shown how full use of the river can be combined with activities other than industry. Our report argues for a similarly imaginative approach in London.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE NICHOLSON,
Chairman,
London Rivers Association,
4 Stratford Office Village,
4 Romford Road, E15

Yours truly?

From Commander C. G. Wylie, OBE, FBIM, RN

Sir, I have just received a letter from a company offering software products to "increase the business efficiency and improve the image of a professional like you".

The salutation was "Dear Mr Obefbim". Would my image be more improved, I wonder, if I were known as "Cdr Obefbim" or as "Mr Esqobefbim"? I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES WYLIE,
The Watery, Lodge Hill,
Newtown Village,
Fareham, Hampshire.

OBITUARIES

LORD CHESHIRE, VC, OM

Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC, wartime bomber pilot, founder of the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the disabled and co-founder with his second wife, Sue Ryder (Baroness Ryder of Warsaw), of the Ryder Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering, died on July 31 aged 74. He was born in Chester on September 7, 1917.

Lord Cheshire held the two highest awards, for valour and for merit, which are in the gift of a British Sovereign. He won the Victoria Cross in 1944 as an RAF pilot with "a record second to none in Bomber Command... placing himself invariably in the forefront of the battle". The Order of Merit, with which he was invested in 1981, marked the many years he spent in peacetime devoted, with religious fervour, to the welfare of disabled people.

The Cheshire Homes for the disabled are his monument. From faltering beginnings in a single house in 1948, after a previous self-help scheme for ex-servicemen had failed, the Cheshire Foundation expanded almost exponentially. Today there are more than 270 homes in Britain and in 50 countries abroad, caring for the physically handicapped and the incurably ill. Cheshire's meeting with (and subsequent marriage to) Sue Ryder in 1956 gave added impetus to his work. She was already renowned for her tireless work on behalf of the victims of Nazi savagery in Europe through her Sue Ryder Foundation. When the pair married their complementary interests found a natural expression in the establishment of the Ryder Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering, operating from centres all over the world.

His peacetime work notwithstanding, it was important to Cheshire to be remembered as one of those who fought in the RAF to preserve the values he held to be important. The culmination of his war could not have been more dramatic. He was official British observer of the dropping of the world's second atomic bomb, at Nagasaki on August 15, 1945. That preview of Doomsday, which separated his two lives, had a profound impact on a seasoned bomber pilot who was also a devout and thoughtful man. A mystical dimension was added to his complex character.

The atom bomb, he wrote later, had the effect, first, of "catastrophising him into pacifism". Pacifism attracted him briefly because it "appeared to offer a simple, unequivocal solution and appealed to high ethical principles". He then turned back on pacifism and on unilateral disarmament as a way of achieving peace, because he "just could not make it fit the real world in which we live". He saw the rest of his life as an attempt to achieve the kind of peace to which the key exists only in men's hearts.

Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire spent his childhood in Oxford where his father, Geoffrey Chevalier Cheshire, was bursar of Exeter College from 1919 to 1933 and subsequently Vinerian Professor of Law and Fellow of All Souls from 1944 to 1949. Leonard Cheshire was educated at Stowe and Merton College, Oxford, where he read jurisprudence and, in 1936, enrolled in the University Air Squadron. In 1939 he was granted a permanent commission in the RAF. He joined No 102 Squadron, Bomber Command, in June 1940.

His Bomber Command career was a unique calendar of courage. The VC he received in 1944 was awarded unusually, not for a single act but for four years of valour, during which he had already won the DSO and two Bars and the DFC.

Later he was to recall how, while at Oxford before the war, watching Hitler's progress, he had become aware "that something evil and dangerous was abroad". If that was so, it may be said that for four years he devoted himself to a crusade to eradicate that evil with high explosive. An earlier ambition to be a fighter pilot was replaced with an almost fanatical conviction that bombers provided the key to victory over Hitler. Raid after raid he flew over the Ruhr, the north German ports and Berlin. He volunteered for missions when it was not his turn, and even when he was assigned temporarily as a flying instructor.

He found time to write a book, *Bomber Pilot*, which became a best-seller. Promotion came swiftly, to captain of aircraft, to flight commander, to squadron commander. At the age of 25 he was the youngest



group captain in the service, commanding the bomber station at Marston Moor. But this took him away from operations and he insisted on reverting to the rank of wing commander so that he could return to a flying command — of 617 Squadron.

This was the legendary squadron which, a few months earlier, had earned the nickname "Dambusters" after its daring low-level attacks on the Eder and Mohne dams. Under Cheshire it now developed a technique of precision bombing by dropping marker flares from a height of a few hundred feet on individual targets which were then attacked by a larger force. This development was typical of the relentless search for operational improvement which characterised this highly reflective flier.

It was "Micky" (later Air Chief Marshal Sir Harold) Martin who first suggested to Cheshire that dive-bombing at low level was the only guaranteeable way of marking a target accurately. When Cheshire had perfected this hazardous procedure he had to prove to his superiors that it would work. Sir Ralph Cohrane, AOC 5 Group, somewhat apprehensively gave him the go-ahead for a raid on the Gnome-Rhône aero engine factory at Limoges. It was known that there was a night shift of French women at the works and Cohrane warned Cheshire that if even one of these was killed there would be such a furore that the prime minister would rule out any further low-level marking.

After briefing his aircrews with intense care, Cheshire made several runs over the factory at low level to warn the workers before the markers were dropped. As a result the workers were able to get to shelter, after which the raid proceeded, completely destroying the factory without one French casualty. A message was later passed by the Gnome-Rhône girls via the resistance to the squadron, thanking the crews for their consideration and for the accuracy of their bombing.

The success of this raid led to Churchill authorising others on targets in France and opened the way for attacks on V-weapons sites in northern France and on submarine pens. In a strategic air offensive which has in recent years been so harshly criticised for its ineffectiveness, these precision raids stand in sharp relief.

Finding, in spite of these successes, that the Lancaster made an unsatisfactory dive-bomber, Cheshire relentlessly badgered his superiors for a more suitable aircraft and, after a "window", were dropped in a complex and meticulously planned pattern to create the effect to German radar of a convoy moving in towards the French coast in the Pas de Calais area. The operation had to be timed perfectly so that the clouds of metal strips, dropped in advance of each other at precise intervals by successive waves of aircraft, gave the impression of a steady approach of shipping at a speed of nine knots. Any aberration would have given the game away. In the event the phantom armada was clearly visible on German radar and had the effect of diverting the attention of coastal and fighter defences away from the real invasion force heading into the beaches of Normandy 150 miles to the south-west. Indeed, as the "convoy" came within range the German guns in the Pas de Calais hurled salvos of radar-aimed 12-inch shells at the clouds of descending metal.

One of 617's last missions under Cheshire's command was the destruction of the third and potentially most destructive, of Hitler's *Vergeltungswaffen*, the V3. This was a nest of long range guns in subterranean tunnels, protected by a thick concrete shelter and designed to be able to pour 600 tons of explosives a day on London with deadly accuracy. From his Mustang Cheshire himself marked the spot and the 12,000lb Barnes Wallis-designed "earthquake" bombs of 617 made sure that the V3, at least, never featured in anger in the history of the V-weapons. Shortly afterwards Cheshire flew his 100th mission, at which point his AOC, Cohrane, told him that it was time to come off operations. Cheshire spent the last part of the war in India and was then attached to the Joint Staff Mission in Washington. From there he went to the Pacific to watch the A-bomb. He reported personally on that mission to Attlee, by then prime minister. He then retired from the RAF.

After several false starts in civilian life — he had, at various times, projects to grow mushrooms in disused tunnels, to fly orchids from

personal interview with Sir Arthur Harris, extracted from him the promise of two Mosquitoes for 617 Squadron. With these aircraft and, when it later became available, with the Mustang, 617's marking and bombing achieved an accuracy that was out of all proportion to that of the RAF at large and which was the envy of the Pathfinder. From then on, Cheshire led all 617's raids from the front, in his Mustang, marking the target himself "on the deck".

On the eve of D-Day the squadron used its precision techniques to confuse enemy radar in what was described as the RAF's greatest spoof operation. Metallic strips, known as

that the V3, at least, never featured in anger in the history of the V-weapons. Shortly afterwards Cheshire flew his 100th mission, at which point his AOC, Cohrane, told him that it was time to come off operations. Cheshire spent the last part of the war in India and was then attached to the Joint Staff Mission in Washington. From there he went to the Pacific to watch the A-bomb. He reported personally on that mission to Attlee, by then prime minister. He then retired from the RAF.

the Caribbean to New York and to build a modern Mayflower and sail to an uncharted island and settle there with a band of comrades — Cheshire gathered around him a number of equally unsettled ex-servicemen. They formed a self-governing community at his Hampshire family home, Le Court, near Liss, where the intention was that they would work together on altruistic principles.

But Cheshire's health broke down and when he recovered and returned to Britain from convalescence in Canada the community had disintegrated leaving him with debts of £18,000. Cheshire sold the surrounding land and his furniture to pay his most pressing debts and while considering what to do next heard that a former member of the failed community, an ex-airman, was dying of cancer. Cheshire borrowed a bed, took him in, nursed him and cooked for him. Next a bedridden woman of 95 with no one to care for her came to his notice. She became his second "patient" and he borrowed another bed, took her in and looked after her, too, performing all the necessary menial tasks himself.

The old man eventually died. Cheshire sat with him until he drew his last breath and the experience had a profound effect on his naturally religious nature. He contacted his local Roman Catholic priest, took instruction in the faith and four months later joined the Roman Catholic church. In the meantime, under his own volition his hospital was growing, as more and more incurables knocked at the door, the halt, the lame and the dying. A strange spirit infused the place: patients helped where they could in chores such as sewing and darning. Those few who were mobile enough to get about unaided polished the floors, shuffling about with rags on their feet. Nurses and students volunteered what time they could spare to supplement these efforts.

Financially the place lived from hand to mouth, though through the appeal of the Cheshire name donations kept at least trickling in and from week to week bills somehow got paid. From being a sort of doss-house, gradually Le Court became transformed into a real home, where human wrecks discarded by society were able to regain their self respect. An important financial breakthrough came when Cheshire secured backing from the company that had been so important in the wartime aircraft industry, Vickers. The Cheshire Foundation was gradually established as a major charity. As so often in such cases, the greater the fame of the enterprise, the larger the donations became; the gratefully received anonymous cheques for five and ten pounds of the early days becoming, in time, beguets of tens or even hundreds of thousands of pounds from industry or from wealthy Middle Eastern potentates.

In 1956 Cheshire's work expanded in new directions after he met Sue Ryder, who at that time had already earned a name for her charitable work in Poland among survivors of concentration camps after the war. Their joint work included setting up a centre in India. She, too, was a convert to Roman Catholicism. In 1959 they married and their joint mission for the relief of suffering was formed to undertake projects — mainly in the developing world — which did not lie within the scope of their previously existing foundations. Missions were established in India, Nepal, Tanzania, Australia and New Zealand to cater for sufferers from TB, leprosy and mental handicap. In the United Kingdom the Ryder Cheshire volunteer scheme offered help to house-bound people to improve the quality of their lives.

Cheshire held honorary degrees from the universities of Oxford, Liverpool, Birmingham, Kent and Nottingham and from Manchester Polytechnic. He was made a life peer in 1991 and was also a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great.

Besides *Bomber Pilot* (1943), he wrote a number of other books: *Pilgrimage to the Shroud* (1956), *The Face of Victory* (1961), *The Hidden World* (1981) and *The Light of Many Suns* (1985), which marked the fortieth anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The marriage to Lady Ryder was his second, a wartime marriage, to an American actress, Constance Binney, having ended in divorce. There were a son and a daughter of the second marriage.

THE RIGHT REV JOHN TINSLEY

The Right Rev Ernest John Tinsley, Bishop of Bristol from 1976 to 1985 and before that professor of theology at Leeds University, died in hospital at Oxford on July 20 aged 73. He was born on March 22, 1919.

JOHN Tinsley was a bishop of a kind perhaps more common in earlier, less specialised days than these, one who had spent most of his career in the academic world but was able to move readily into episcopal office without the need for any great change of style. This may have been partly because, from his earliest days as a lecturer at Hull, he had combined part-time service of local churches with his academic responsibilities; but it was also because of the breadth of his interests. His literary training and artistic sensibility gave added resonance to his religious insights. The fact that he spent most of his career in the North Country may also have strengthened the impression he gave of unassuming solidity and good sense.

At Durham University he obtained first class degrees in English and theology, and became a fellow of the university. He prepared for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge, and returned to County Durham for his two curacies. In 1946 he was appointed lecturer in theology at Hull University, helping to expand the fledgling department and becoming its head and a senior lecturer in 1961.

In 1962 he moved to Leeds as professor in the much larger theology department and here he was highly regarded, being Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1965 to 1967. He remained closely connected with church life and wider movements in society and in 1976 preceded his Leeds successor, David Jenkins, at a similar stage in both their careers, in moving from his chair to becoming a diocesan bishop.

In going to Bristol, he sought to maintain the tradition established particularly by his two immediate predecessors.

sors, Bishops Cockin and Oliver Tomkins, with their liberal outlook, ecumenical spirit and wide social concerns. He was also able to retain some of his former academic contacts. The University of Bristol made him a special lecturer and he was active as a member of National Council of Academic Awards committees. He had served as a member of the Church of England Doctrine Commission from 1965 to 1967 and renewed that association on the national level by becoming joint chairman of the General Synod's Board of Education and, from 1979 to 1982, of the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. He also sat on the Home Office's committee on obscenity and film censorship from 1977 to 1979.

His first book, in 1960, was



a largely historical study on *The Imitation of God in Christ* and it was followed in 1965 by a commentary on St Luke. He contributed to several composite volumes, notably to a series he edited on modern theology, and to various theological works of reference. In his later years he produced two interesting shorter books of a less directly academic character, *Tragedy, Irony and Faith* in 1980, and *Tell it slant* in 1990.

The death of his wife, Marjorie in the year after they moved to Bristol affected him very deeply. They had two daughters.

RABBI SIMCHA BUNIM ALTER

RABBI Simcha Bunim Alter, head of the Gur Hassidic dynasty and a key behind-the-scenes figure in Israeli politics, has died in his Jerusalem home. He was 95.

Alter was born in March 1897 in Gora Kalwaria in Poland and emigrated to pre-state Palestine in 1934. For many years he served as an aide to his father, Rabbi Abraham Mordechai Alter, who died in 1948. Alter was named the fifth head of the 130-year-old Gur dynasty in 1977, following the death of his brother, Rabbi Israel Alter. He also served as president

of the Council of Torah Sages, the spiritual advisers to Agudat Israel, a small ultra-Orthodox party that often held the key to power in Israel's coalition governments.

Alter campaigned for religious legislation, such as restricting Israel's abortion laws. In the early 1980s he directed Agudat Israel to support a no-confidence motion in the government in an unsuccessful effort to close down a Mormon college in Jerusalem.

The Gur dynasty is one of the largest and most influential Hassidic groups, claiming 100,000 followers.

August 3 ON THIS DAY 1894

Penmaenpool, and Captain Edwards and I went ashore near the Clogau Mine. There is a landing place there. We started back together. The wind was against us. Seeing that the sea was getting rough, and observing that some of the rowers were not very skilful, I requested them to cease rowing. I then managed the boat very well, but as we were turning round a sharp corner, one of the party sitting at the stern of the boat lost his hat, and turned back to look after it. This caused the boat to roll slightly, the water rushed in, and the next instant the boat was swamped. I had already turned towards shore, and we were within seven or eight yards from land. I was picked up into the water and swam ashore. When I landed I secured a boat and went out immediately to the rescue. My boat was floating upside down. I found one person clinging to the keel and picked him up safely. I then found another clinging to a piece of wood, and I rescued him. Next we noticed two ladies floating, and the two men who were with me got hold of them and we went ashore. When we landed one of the ladies was unconscious, and all our efforts to restore life were unsuccessful. Captain Edwards then landed his party and together we went out. We heard some shouts, but could not discover any further victims. It was by this time quite dark. We put the body of the drowned lady in the boat and went towards home. After going some distance we heard some more shouts and discovered a lady floating by means of a plank. We rescued her in an exhausted state. We could discover no one else. This lady told us she had been to Penmaenpool, and we discovered that she belonged to Mr. Paton's boat, she being the only survivor. We got to Barmouth, and placed the rescued lady in a house on the quay, where she was attended to. In my opinion nothing whatever could have happened to our boat, had the person at the stern not turned round when his hat was blown off.

BOATING DISASTERS.

A shocking boating accident occurred about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night on the River Mawddach, a few miles east of Barmouth. In the afternoon a large number of visitors went up to Penmaenpool in pleasure boats, returning thence about half-past 8. On the way home they encountered a heavy gale of wind, and two of the boats capsized, resulting in the loss of ten lives. The boats which went up the river in the afternoon were three in number, and together they conveyed about 20 visitors. Two of the boats were respectively in charge of Wm. Jones and Lewis Edwards, two of the most experienced sculling men in Barmouth, and two well-known Oxford oarsmen had charge of the third boat.

The accounts of the accident given by the boatmen are to some extent at variance with that of the visitors. Captain William Jones said: "On Wednesday evening Mr Paton came to me and said he required two boats to go up the estuary. I replied that it was rather rough, and that he would require a boatman to go out with him, to which he replied that he was a champion rower of Oxford, and quite capable of taking charge of the other boat. None of the party mentioned anything about the weather being too rough. I went up in the boat called the *June*. Mr Paton had the boat *Margaret*. The *Jane* is registered to carry eight persons and a boatman. I had only seven in it. Captain Edwards was in charge of the third boat. Mr. Paton went as far as

Bones give clue to city's past

SKELETONS uncovered during excavations at one of Scotland's oldest chapels are likely to provide an insight into sixteenth century life. The graveyard was discovered at Magdalen Chapel, in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town.

Mark Collard, the district council's archaeologist, said the discovery would "tell us a little bit about death and disease, what age people were dying at and what bone diseases they were suffering from". It was a potentially very important find.

The remains are believed to date from between 1537, when the chapel was built, and 1560 when the graves were built over.

Mycenaean troops spotted in Egyptian art

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE first portrayal of Mycenaean warriors in Egyptian art has been identified on a papyrus recently acquired by the British Museum. Famed as the besiegers of Troy in Homer's *Iliad*, Agamemnon's troops from Mycenae "rich in gold" are well known from Aegean Bronze Age excavations.

Among their accoutrements were conical helmets clad in the tusks of wild boars, and it is this distinctive headgear that has been tentatively recognised on the papyrus.

The suggestion came from Louise Schofield at a recent colloquium, when Dr Richard Parkinson presented his work on the fragments. Now

known as Pap. BM 74100, the pieces were excavated at Tell el-Amarna, the short-lived capital of Akhenaton (1353-1336 BC), in 1936. There are over 40 small pieces, but Dr Parkinson has reassembled two substantial painted scenes, which he says are remarkable because they come from an illustrated papyrus and are of exceptional artistic quality, comparable in style to the famous Painted Casket of Tutankhamun made only a few years later.

Dr Parkinson said: "Reassembling the fragments was immensely exciting — to see a lost masterpiece growing before my eyes. The figures are engaged in combat, one of

the earliest known New Kingdom battle scenes and the only one on a papyrus. It adds to the evidence that Akhenaton was not a pacifist dreamer."

One scene shows a prostrate Egyptian about to have his throat cut by a Libyan, in front of two Libyan archers. The other shows running infantrymen, some in typical Egyptian dress, but others wearing helmets and tunics made from oxhides.

These suggest that the figures are not Egyptians, and they do not have the usual characteristics of Asians such as beards. The pale colour of the helmets and the vertical curved lines on them suggest-

ed to Ms Schofield that they were in fact Egyptian renderings of Mycenaean warriors' tusk helmets.

Contact between Greece and Egypt in the fourteenth century BC has long been recognised, but the possible presence of Mycenaean warriors in Egypt is a revelation. Dr Parkinson and Ms Schofield are, though, treating the find cautiously: "We are being careful to look at all possible identifications: it would be tremendous if we really do have here the first depictions of Mycenaeans in Egyptian art, but no matter who they are, the figures will have important bearings on knowledge of the period."

Bishop takes boat to abbey

The Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, led a flotilla of traditional sailing wherries down the river Bure yesterday for the annual service at St Benet's Abbey in the heart of the Norfolk Broads.

The bishop preached to a crowd of several hundred local people and holidaymakers in the open air. All that remains of the ninth-century abbey is part of the great gate. It was the only monastery which escaped dissolution by Henry VIII although it soon fell into disrepair.

The Rev Hugh Edgell, vicar of Horning and Prior of the Abbey, said occasional services were still held, "but this is the main event of the year".

